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**BEST FOR JOBS**

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SPECIAL 36-PAGE SECTION

Saudi lawyer tells of nurses' shock

## Brother 'seeks \$1.2m blood money deal'

By DANIEL McGRORY and MICHAEL THEODOULOU

THE brother of an Australian nurse stabbed to death in Saudi Arabia wants \$1.2 million "blood money" to spare the life of the British woman accused of her murder, a Saudi lawyer said yesterday.

Salah al-Hejailan, who represents Deborah Parry and her co-defendant Lucille McLauchlan, said that Frank Gifford had demanded that the two give \$500,000 (nearly £300,000) to a children's hospital and pay him the rest.

Mr al-Hejailan described the sum as extortionate, but said the two Britons — who worked with the victim, Yvonne Gifford — had agreed to the deal on Sunday. Both were said to be shocked by the scale of the demand and told lawyers that their families could not raise that amount of money. They nevertheless signed a binding document, a copy of which is being held by the British High Commissioner in Australia.

Mr Gifford is forbidden from speaking about the case under the terms of an injunction issued by an Australian court, but his wife and lawyers denied yesterday that he had waived the right to demand the death penalty. However, the Foreign Office confirmed that British diplomats in Australia had verified the document, although a spokesman added: "We cannot say what the financial terms are, as this is meant to be confidential."

Reports of Mr Gifford's secret deal came as British diplomats tried to discover whether Parry had been found

guilty of the killing last December. McLauchlan was on Tuesday reported to have been sentenced to 500 lashes and eight years in jail for being an accessory, prompting fears that Parry had been convicted of murder, which carries a mandatory death penalty. Mr al-Hejailan said that he did not expect the court to rule on Parry until next month.

Yesterday a British lawyer visited the two women in Dammam Central Prison, where they were said to be devastated and sick with nerves, and the British Consul-General will see them on Sunday. In the meantime, the Foreign Secretary will discuss the case with his Saudi counterpart tomorrow — although diplomats have warned Britain not to meddle and the Saudi Ambassador in London has accused critics of demeaning his country's courts.

On Tuesday, Robin Cook described the flogging sentence as "wholly unacceptable" and while the Ambassador, Dr Ghazi Algasabli, made no comment on those remarks, he said: "We do not propose to change any country's judicial system and we will not allow any country to change our system." He emphasised that no final verdict had been reached in the case, which was still in an early stage, and any comment was mere speculation. "I appeal for restraint and reason," he said. "Sensitivity rather than sensationalism should be the order of the day."

As he spoke, McLauchlan's

parents were making urgent arrangements to fly from Dundee to Dharhan to see their daughter. Ann McLauchlan said: "We just want to be with her. She must be so frightened."

Jonathan Ashbee, Parry's brother-in-law, said that he had been making telephone calls all afternoon to find out what was going on. He added that discussions were being held with the Gifford family, but he did not know whether any agreement had been reached. Of the report that Mr Gifford was seeking \$1.2 million, he said: "Of course we cannot afford this sort of sum, but it is true, we will move heaven and earth to raise the money if we have to. Anything rather than the other appalling option."

Mr al-Hejailan was scathing of Mr Gifford, a courier taxi driver from South Australia, and said: "This should not become some sort of commercial deal, nor a banking transaction. This is a human tragedy. How can Mr Gifford turn an offer of goodwill to a charity from the nurses into a money-making exercise for himself? His demand is outrageous and extortionate."

Of Laurel Gifford's claim that her husband was still considering his options, Mr al-Hejailan said: "Under Saudi law, once he agrees to talk about money, he cannot go back and then demand the death penalty."

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Boatswain, the product of 14 years of cross-breeding, with his owner Ken Mollett

## Beckett seeks minimum wage exemption for young people

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government is considering exempting young people, possibly up to the age of 25, from the national minimum wage.

In a move that will delight business and alarm the unions, ministers are insisting that the full economic impact of a minimum wage must be taken into account when its level is set.

The Government's first indication of how it will handle the sensitive issue of the minimum wage is set out in a letter from Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, to the chairman of the Low Pay Commission.

Mrs Beckett asks the commission to recommend only the "initial level at which the national minimum wage might be introduced". Union leaders, suspicious of the degree of government commitment to a minimum wage, will interpret this as a sign that it may not be updated once it has been set.

Mrs Beckett asks Professor George Bain, the commission's chairman, to make recommendations on "lower rates or exemptions" for young people. This, she explains, could cover an age range from 16 to as high as 25.

In the letter, sent on Tuesday, Mrs Beckett exhorts the commission to "have regard to the wider social and economic implications" in making its recommendations — a clear signal that the wage should not be set too high.

This is the first time that the Government has specifically indicated that the commission has a responsibility to consider the economic impact of its recommended level. In particular it should take into account the likely effect of a minimum wage on employment, inflation, the competitiveness of business in Britain

— and especially small firms — as well as the overall economic point of the "potential impact on the costs to industry and the Exchequer".

When Parliament returns next month, the Government will introduce legislation that will require all employers to pay their employees not less than a figure which will be set by ministers. The Government will decide on the level of a minimum wage based on the recommendation of the commission, with a minimum wage likely to be in place some time in 1999. Companies which fail to comply with the statutory minimum will face legal penalties, although those are as yet unspecified.

Trade union leaders and low-pay pressure groups will be given a fresh target on the minimum wage today by new figures from the Government

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on national earnings. The minimum wage target of half male median earnings, now £4.42 an hour, is likely to rise under the new figures to about £4.60.

The Government's move comes as business issues its starkest warning yet on the impact of a minimum wage. Using the largest survey of companies, with more than 2,500 firms giving their views, the British Chambers of Commerce say that a national minimum wage set at too high a rate will lead to lost jobs and higher inflation.

The survey shows that with a minimum set at £4.25, three-fifths of companies will be affected. Fifty-eight per cent will respond by cutting jobs, the survey says, while 55 per cent will increase the price of their goods and services.

## Unionists give way over arms

By MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

AFTER 16 months of procedural wrangling, Northern Ireland's political parties were last night close to the breakthrough required to launch full-scale peace negotiations.

The breakthrough became possible after the Ulster Unionist Party abandoned its long-standing demand for guaranteed IRA disarmament early in the negotiations to demonstrate republican good faith. David Trimble, the UUP leader, conceded after a day of

intense wrangling that the agreed formula for moving into substantive negotiations was "not ideal", but insisted that decommisioning would not be "forgotten, sidelined or buried".

He moved swiftly to pre-empt inevitable charges of capitulation from rival Unionist parties that have boycotted the talks. "Why aren't they here arguing for decommisioning and keeping the pressure on for decommisioning? I will not take criticism from people who have given up on decommisioning," he said.

Ken Maginnis, the UUP's security spokesman, said the party had to live in the real world. "We obviously wanted to see total disarmament before any paramilitary organisation was brought to the talks. That was not achieved."

Continued on page 2, col 5

## Labour suspends Scots councillors

Nine Glasgow councillors at the centre of an alleged "bribe-for-votes" scandal were suspended by Labour's national executive in London pending the drawing-up of serious disciplinary charges.

However, many of the most prominent figures, including the Lord Provost of Glasgow, Pat Lally, said they would fight moves which one said had "put the verdict before the trial".

## Rules for letting children die

Guidelines for withdrawing medical treatment from children and allowing them to die were set out by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health.

David Baum, President of the college, said: "We are forced to wrestle with dreadful choices. The list has been drawn up because medical advances make it possible to sustain life without restoring health."

## True bulldog breed reborn

By LIN JENKINS

AN ATTEMPT to restore the bulldog, emblem of all that is great about Britain, to its former glory has been greeted with scorn by the canine establishment.

The efforts of one man to cross the breed and take it back to its Victorian stature, ridding it of modern traits which cause skin disease, respiratory problems and lethargy, have not been greeted with enthusiasm by registered breeders. They maintain that the Victorian bear-baiting dog, symbol of the empire, is unsuitable for modern life. The Kennel Club says people want couch-potato dogs to go with their couch-potato lives.

While bulldog breed clubs and the Kennel Club are united in recognising that the breed needs to iron out some inbreeding problems, they do not think that it should return to its roots.

Ken Mollett now has the fifth generation of his reformed breed after 14 years

and is impressed by the improvement. "I am trying to breed a dog which is unmistakably a bulldog to look at, but who can enjoy a walk," he said. He is disappointed with the response from breeders, but not surprised.

However, he dismissed the idea that since he held up the

Victorian dog as an ideal, he was reviving aggressive characteristics. "It is paramount that they are trustworthy. That, and their health, comes before any aesthetic considerations. You have to go back to William IV to find the aggressive characteristics. Bear baiting was abolished in 1835," he said. His four children had grown up with the dogs.

Brian Leonard, of the Kennel Club, said: "There is a degree to which we want couch-potato dogs for couch-potato owners. People want an entertaining character not very interested in exercise."

Mr Mollett, 44, an engineering manager for a lighting company from Pinner, Middlesex, has bred the bulldog with bull mastiffs and Staffordshire bull terriers.



Crib, from an 1817 print

## Take risks for the real prizes, says Ashdown

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PADDY ASHDOWN told his party yesterday to step into the real world, drop outdated policies and reap the reward of closer co-operation with Labour.

The Liberal Democrat leader used his address to the conference at Eastbourne to hammer home his message that the party had to take the risks of working with Labour even if that meant policy compromises.

"Because this is real politics, there will be real prizes to be won," he said. "The more we agree, the greater the chance that reform will succeed. The more we disagree, the greater the likelihood it will fail."

Echoing Tony Blair's efforts to

modernise the Labour Party, he added that said there was no room for "purists" in the Liberal Democrat Party and unless it modernised, it could sink without trace.

The Liberal Democrats should not fall into the traps of "complacency, self-satisfaction, timidity or an excessive concern for our own purity," he said. "If, because of these, we fail to play our part in the changes which are now happening, then our successes on May 1 could just as easily be not a triumphant breakthrough, but a mere footnote of history."

Mr Ashdown had had enough of sitting on the sidelines, talking without being able to do anything. "So where shall we be as the game is played out? Sitting in the stands, safe from the flying boots, clear of the mud?" he asked. "No. I'll tell you where we will be. Not spectators on the sidelines. But on the field, in the game,

and right in the middle of the scrum. When the next election comes, I want us to show people that we really have made a difference, just as we promised."

In a bold address, which earned him an enthusiastic standing ovation, Mr Ashdown hinted that the party might have to compromise on its preferred method of proportional representation for Westminster. Delegates backed a motion supporting the single transferable vote — the purest form of PR — but party sources signalled that they would eventually have to accept a less radical system.

But it was Mr Ashdown's warning about the need to drop the party's high tax

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# Ashdown the entertainer finally beats sleeping sickness

Sensibly, Liberal Democrats organise their conference so the real climax comes at the end. Thus the President speaks on Tuesday, the leader on Wednesday, and the big debate on euthanasia takes place on the final day, Thursday.

Paddy Ashdown spoke after lunch. It proved hard work. In *The Entertainer*, playwright John Osborne's main character, Archie Rice, treads the boards as an ageing musical star, greasepaint running in the heat of the footlights as he works harder every season

for his laughs, his sighs and his applause. There is something poignant, in the struggle. It was a warm day in Eastbourne. The conference hall ventilation had failed and the atmosphere was stifling. With a mediocre script, a string of bad jokes, pages of unmemorable prose and a single strong idea, Paddy Ashdown — that Archie Rice of 1990s British politics — strutted the stage, doing his nut to rouse them. In the end he succeeded. But how odd that it needed such effort to

inspire a party which has just had its best election result for more than sixty years! There is something troubling in the heart of British Liberalism. On the platform behind the Liberal Democrat leader sat a strange beast. Voters of Harrow East who failed to elect him this spring as their Tory MP may have been surprised to see Hugh Dykes grinning and clapping as Mr Ashdown declaimed a parody of the witches' scene in *Macbeth*: "Hubble, bubble, toil and trouble. The Tory Party's reduced to rubble ...

Eye of Dorrell, toe of Clarke. From Michael Hezza — no more bark!" These were Mr Dykes's friends, once. "We welcome you!" called his new friend. Dykes acknowledged the applause with a shy thumbs-up. Ashdown began a paean of praise for Liberal Democracy. A lady in the balcony went to sleep, her head flopping back.

fanned themselves like eighteenth century opera-goers. "The problem lies in joblessness and unemployment," he explained. (Joblessness and unemployment? Cries?) ... Start thinking of our economy," he urged, "... not as a single, homogenous economy, but as a two-tier economy."

I saw the first delegate actually standing up, pass out and lurch against a wall. The Liberal Democrat leader spoke of the horrors of what in his pronunciation sounded like "echo-vandalism". Is this the danger of old

speeches rebounding? Mr Ashdown ducks as previous commitments to *Unilateral Disarmament* (1983), *Communism* (1995), *Free Markets* (1990) and *Equidistance* (1992) bounce back, clattering among the archives.

But 1997 is the New Politics. He railed passionately at his party to be "realistic" co-operating where possible with Labour. Delegates were almost convinced.

I spotted one clapping and shaking his head simultaneously. This caught the

## New privacy code aims to eradicate press harassment

By CAROL MIDDLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

MEASURES to give extra protection to children and end harassment by photographers are expected to be in the revised Press Complaints Commission privacy code to be announced today.

Lord Wakeham, chairman of the PCC, promised the changes would be "dramatic" and said newspaper editors should endorse them with immediate effect. Editors and lay members at yesterday's PCC meeting were told of the proposals, but were not called upon to endorse them officially.

That will be considered at a meeting of the PCC's code of practice committee, chaired by Sir David English, although it is thought they will raise little objection. The changes are understood to extend the privacy rights of children into adulthood and make a more formal definition of harassment.

The code's guidance on intrusion into grief is also expected to be tightened. It is expected to extend the definition of private places where people should not be photographed with telephoto lenses to include restaurants and churches and to tighten requirements on papers to establish how and where pictures were

The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund received more than £8 million in donations within ten working days of its launch. There have been gifts from 110,000 donors. Credit card pledges, proceeds from the sale of *Candle in the Wind*, profits from CD and video sales, gifts from newspaper readers and tax relief on large donations are not included. The Princess's eldest sister, Lady Sarah McCorquodale, has agreed to become a trustee.

taken. Lord Wakeham said: "They will be, I think, a pretty dramatic package of improvements. I would expect editors to deal with them from tomorrow, from day one."

Lord Wakeham said he would also suggest curbs on the behaviour of television crews, although it did not fall within the responsibilities of the PCC.

Sir David, Editor in Chief and chairman of Associated Newspapers, suggested that the editors would not automatically approve the changes but said they recognised change was needed. "We have our own proposals. I think it is an industry that is looking very seriously at the way that it has

conducted itself, and realises that there have to be changes." John Witherow, Editor of *The Sunday Times* and a PCC member, said: "He [Lord Wakeham] has some very good proposals which I think the industry will accept." But Mr Witherow added: "It is important that the public interest is there so that wrongdoing is exposed."

The proposals have to be endorsed by professional bodies such as the Newspaper Society before they can be formally adopted into the code of practice in a few weeks' time.

Broadcasting watchdogs have just completed consultation on their own draft privacy code, which was drawn up in July. Stephen Whittle, director of the Broadcasting Standards Commission, said: "We hope we will set a clear standard of conduct."

The code covers accuracy, infringement of privacy, the use of hidden microphones and cameras, doorstepping, interviewing children, people suffering or in distress and care in revisiting traumatic past events.



Dr Mowlam walked out after Ken Maginnis claimed she wanted the talks to fail

## Mowlam quits talks with irate Unionists

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

MO MOWLAM, the Northern Ireland Secretary, walked out of a meeting with Ulster Unionist Party leaders on Tuesday night in another vivid illustration of the fraught relationship between these two key participants in the peace process.

Dr Mowlam left her office in the Stormont conference centre after Ken Maginnis, the Fermanagh MP, claimed that she wanted the process to fail so she and the Irish Government could stitch together a shoddy deal on Northern Ireland's future. The Unionists were accusing the Government of watering down its own words on the need for IRA disarmament in a procedural motion required to start full-scale peace negotiations.

Dr Mowlam was already unhappy, having had to sit in the conference room that afternoon while Mr Maginnis accused her of knowingly inviting IRA "godfathers" to the negotiating table. This had "diminished democracy, sacrificed the freedom of the people of Northern Ireland to the terrorist and elevated an evil Mafia to a status that would shame any other country in Western Europe," he claimed.

Shortly after walking out Dr Mowlam telephoned David Trimble, the UUP leader, and reconvened the meeting. Apologies were exchanged. Government officials strove to play down the altercation yesterday, calling it "a matter of no great consequence", but this was not an isolated incident.

Last month Mr Trimble, a notoriously irascible man, had a furious row with Dr Mowlam, herself renowned for speaking bluntly, in an anteroom at Number 10 Downing Street. The row spilled over into a meeting with the Prime Minister, and was triggered by a *Belfast Telegraph* interview in which Dr Mowlam had appeared to water down the sacrosanct principle of consent, whereby any constitutional change would require the approval of a majority of Northern Ireland's people.

In July Unionists berated Dr Mowlam after she admitted that Government contacts with Sinn Féin had continued — for the purpose of "clarification" — despite the ban imposed after the IRA shot two policemen in Lurgan one month earlier. Those contacts an assurance that the decommissioning issue would not derail the peace negotiations.

In May they were outraged when Dr Mowlam told the BBC that the settlement train would "leave without the Unionists" if they boycotted the talks because of Sinn Féin's presence. In one sense Dr Mowlam's outspokenness, and her willingness to risk Unionist anger by addressing Sinn Féin's concerns, have paid handsome dividends. She has succeeded in bringing Unionists, loyalists, nationalists and republicans together under the same roof for the first time in Northern Ireland's 76-year history.

However, Unionists have come to believe that she has in other ways impeded progress.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Rail crash inquiry examines safety rules

Safety experts investigating the Southall rail crash have begun an inquiry into how operators are interpreting regulations governing the safety equipment which failed. They will examine the wording of rules and introduce any necessary changes before the public inquiry opens into the accident which killed six people and seriously injured 13 others.

Trains on which the automatic warning system has failed are currently still allowed in service. The system, which alerts the driver if a danger signal is passed, was not working on the high-speed InterCity train.

### Jail condemned

Conditions at Barlinnie, Scotland's largest prison, which is running at 51 per cent over capacity, have been labelled a national disgrace by Clive Fairweather, the Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland. He said overcrowding pervaded almost every part of the prison. Mr Fairweather also said that the number of deaths in custody, noted as 15 since the last inspection was held five years ago, was "unacceptably high".

### Clearer claiming

Benefit claimants will no longer have to do battle with Department of Social Security gobbledegook, contained in incomprehensible letters churned out by computer. Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary said yesterday. Speaking to the annual conference of the National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux, Ms Harman said that the way benefits were administered needed radical reform.

### Dealers jailed

A leading member of a £50 million West African heroin and cocaine ring was jailed for 26 years at Woolwich Crown Court yesterday. Olatun Bostun Olaku, 34, from Peckham, south London, was the British organiser for a gang involved in worldwide drug smuggling. His right-hand man Adebowale Shotonwa, 24, from Bermondsey, south London, was also convicted and jailed for 16 years.

### Swimmer injured

Britain's number one 200 metre breaststroke swimmer has broken his back in an accident at a training camp on Lanzarote. Andrew Ayres, 21, who is reported to have a fear of confined spaces, fell 20 feet from a window after he became trapped in a toilet. A nurse has flown out to accompany him home to Swansea. The Welsh 100m and 200m record-holder was hoping for success in the 1998 Commonwealth Games.

### Race-crime study

Race crimes are being ignored or underplayed by police and the courts despite calls for change, according to research by the Crown Prosecution Service published yesterday. The study shows that police are still failing to identify many cases where race is a motive. The research was based on 1,345 reports of cases between April 1996 and March this year where racial motives were thought to be involved.

## Trimble opens way to full peace talks

Continued from page 1 because of our Government. We have to live with that."

The eight parties and the British and Irish Governments were meeting in a full plenary session at Stormont last night.

Provided the precise wording could be agreed in time, they were expected to approve a procedural motion allowing the negotiations to begin on Monday.

That motion was expected to record the UUP's view that decommissioning during the negotiations should be a requirement, but essentially passing the matter to an international body chaired by John de Chastelain, a Canadian general favoured by the Unionists.

The motion was also expected to state unequivocally that consent should be the guiding principle throughout the negotiations. That would prevent the multiparty negotiations reaching any decisions with-

out UUP approval. The negotiations will consist of three strands, one charged with achieving an internal settlement in Northern Ireland, another dealing with North-South relations, and the third with relations between London and Dublin.

The two Governments were also set to reject the UUP's demand for Sinn Féin's expulsion after the IRA's recent disavowal of the Mitchell principles of democracy and non-violence.

The UUP will remain in the peace process, but is expected to attend plenary sessions with Sinn Féin only when that is in its best interests.

Mostly it will engage in bilateral negotiations with the governments and parties other than Sinn Féin.

William Thompson, the West Tyrone MP, signalled the divisions within the UUP by threatening to leave the party if it engaged in direct negotiations with Sinn Féin.

## MP defies bombs

BOMB disposal experts yesterday defused a letter bomb sent to Robert McCartney, leader of the UK Unionist Party. It was the second he had received within weeks. Mr McCartney said last night that he refused to be silenced by terrorists and that they would make him even more diligent. The incendiary-type letter bomb was sent to Mr

McCartney at his party office in Bangor, Co Down. Staff became suspicious of it and carried it outside the building before calling the security forces. In July a similar device was sent to Mr McCartney at his office in the Northern Ireland Forum in central Belfast. No organisation has admitted being behind either attack.

## Take risks, urges Ashdown

Continued from page 1 and spend policy that formed the bravest part of his speech. He has already angered activists with suggestions that the party should drop its policy of adding a penny to income tax to boost education. And over the past three days activists have been attacking Labour's failure to spend more on education and the health service — a stance derided as "oppositionalism" by the ministers Peter Mandelson and Alistair Darling. But yesterday Mr Ashdown argued: "We must not allow our defence of decent public services to tempt

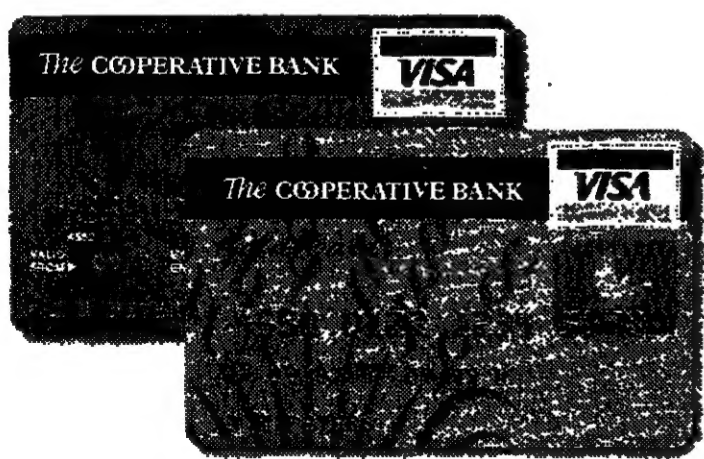
us into becoming the fossilised defenders of yesterday's state sector. Nor must we become the party which, whatever the Government spends, simply says it will spend more; or whatever the Government cuts, simply promises to restore them."

The Liberal Democrats would continue its campaign of "constructive opposition" and he urged Tony Blair to give more money to hospitals this winter. But he added: "Sometimes it is easier to shout than to talk: to trade insults than to shake hands: to confront than to converse. If

we are to make a new start in Britain we must tread the more difficult path. If the Prime Minister is serious — as I believe he is — about changing the culture of our politics, I will work with him on that."

But Mr Ashdown immediately came under attack from William Hague, the Tory leader, who accused him of musing criticisms of the Government to smoothe the relationship between the two parties. "Paddy Ashdown's idea of 'constructive opposition' is to sell his soul to the Labour Party at the first opportunity."

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# Top gynaecologist played God with me, says patient

Stephen Farrell reports on the case of a surgeon who removed a woman's ovaries without consent

A LEADING Harley Street gynaecologist was yesterday accused of "playing God" after he admitted removing a 35-year-old woman's ovaries without her consent.

Jacqueline Bartley claimed that John Studd, a leading champion of hormone replacement therapy for post-menopausal women, failed to tell her what he had done even after the operation, leaving her to find out from an insurance bill three weeks later.

Mr Studd, 57, a consultant at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital in London and known to colleagues as the "HRT King", faces being struck off if found guilty of serious professional misconduct. He has lectured at international conferences on hormone replacement and owned a car with the licence number HRT 1.

Mrs Bartley, now 40, told the General Medical Council's professional conduct committee that she was horrified that her menopause was triggered 15 years early after the private operation on July 23, 1992, at the Lister Hospital in London.

"I felt my whole person had been taken over, that I was just a piece of meat and that's the way I had been treated. This man did not care anything about how I felt. I was just another patient. I didn't matter. I was just somebody in the operating theatre. I felt 6cm high. Luckily I have such a supportive family."

Mr Studd paid Mrs Bartley £32,500 and substantial legal costs in an out-of-court settlement two years ago after she issued a writ seeking damages for assault and battery. The controversy arose after Mrs Bartley, a primary school teacher from Nunhead, South London, agreed to an hysterectomy during corrective surgery to the womb and bladder.

Mr Studd admits removing her ovaries and fallopian tubes during the operation and inserting hormone replacement implants without her consent. However, he

claimed to have done so because he found signs of endometriosis, a condition in which the lining of the womb is found in other organs. He also insists he told her immediately afterwards.

Mrs Bartley said she had initially found Mr Studd a competent and attentive doctor. He had sat on her bed after the operation discussing the Olympic Games. She was adamant, however, that he had never told her what he had done and said she had only found out when she received the bill on August 5



Jacqueline Bartley: felt like "a piece of meat"

detailing extra surgical and drug charges.

She said: "I thought it was a mistake in my bill, or somebody else's bill. I then realised that he had taken my ovaries away. I was very, very distressed."

She and her husband, Mike, a chauffeur, confronted Mr Studd in his Harley Street consulting rooms on August 15, 1992, but allegedly found him concerned only with defending his surgical skills. "I asked him, 'Do I have ovaries?' He said, 'No, of course, you know you don't. My reaction to that was, 'Yes, but you didn't tell me so.'"

"He tapped out on his fingers all the things that he said he had supposedly done

for me. He said, 'I have cured your heavy periods,' from which I have never suffered. He said, 'I have cured your severe PMT,' from which I didn't suffer."

"He told me that he had found endometriosis and I asked him why he didn't use drugs to treat it."

She claimed Mr Studd offered to pay the cost of the operation, but she refused, taking civil action and bringing him to the General Medical Council, because "I wanted justice."

Rosalind Foster, counsel for Mrs Bartley, said the case struck to the "very heart" of patient choice and trust, adding that Mr Studd was no stranger to controversy.

The committee was told that, in a letter to the GMC, the surgeon's lawyers pointed out he could never have sustained the pretence that he had removed only her womb, and never tried to. They insisted: "He does not play God, but endeavours always to put the best interests of his patients first."

The hearing was told that Mr Studd believed the surgery was necessary in his clinical judgment because it had reduced the chances of endometriosis recurring, and had cured her of heavy period pains and severe PMT, of which he insisted she had complained. In a note he wrote: "I have no doubts she had the right operations."

Miss Foster, however, insisted there was no urgent need for him to have removed the organs immediately without consulting Mrs Bartley or her husband. She said: "There is simply no medical or surgical justification for Mr Studd to impose his views, no doubt strongly and genuinely felt, upon Mrs Bartley."

A Lister Hospital staff nurse later told the hearing Mr Studd was a caring and professional surgeon who "at all times has the interests of the patients at heart."

The hearing continues.



John Studd and his wife, Margaret, arriving yesterday for the General Medical Council hearing and, below, his consulting rooms in Harley Street



## PC's sex bias victory leaves force in the doghouse

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A POLICEMAN's dream of becoming a dog handler was shattered because he was sexually discriminated against in a physical fitness test, a tribunal ruled yesterday.

Police Constable David Alcock, 37, completed an assault course 14 seconds within the limit set for women officers but 46 seconds outside that set for a man.

In a claim against the Chief Constable of the Hampshire force, PC Alcock argued that the extra one minute allowed for women was unfair. That meant he missed out on a possible job because of his sex, he told the tribunal.

The tribunal was told that PC Alcock, who is based at Totton near Southampton, Hants, joined the force 17 years ago and applied for a job as a handler in January.

The fitness test was held at the force's training HQ in Netley and involved a two-mile run, an obstacle course and dragging a 500kg roller. On February 24 this year nine men, including PC Alcock, and a woman took the test.

PC Alcock, who is 6ft 2in tall, said: "I did the course in 16 minutes and 46 seconds and was informed I had failed the test. If I had been a female officer who had completed the course in that time I would have been informed that I passed the test and would have been given an interview for the job."

"I maintain that the test should be equal for everyone, that there should be one standard," he added. "The test should be whether you are fit to be a dog handler rather than a male dog handler."

Under cross-examination, PC Alcock accepted that since 1985 he had applied for a position of dog handler "seven or eight times", all unsuccessfully. For Hampshire Constabulary, Inspector Nicholas Cunningham,

who is in charge of the force's dog handling section, said the current test was first introduced in 1993.

He confirmed that currently the force had 29 male dog handlers and just one woman. The 16-minute time limit for men had been set after the average of 20 fit officers taking the course was clocked, Mr Cunningham said.

John Ord, the force's physical training officer, told the tribunal: "Female officers are allowed 17 minutes, the reason being that the tests gave them an allowance because of their physiological differences. Since I have been with Hampshire police, in all tests that have been conducted females have a different amount of time for the running part."

He accepted police recruitment tests were currently under review but said he did not know if that meant the time differences between men and women would be removed.

After finding for PC Alcock, the panel adjourned the hearing to allow him and Hampshire police to discuss how they could remedy the situation. If the parties cannot come to an agreement, they will return to the tribunal at a date to be fixed.



Alcock took his case to industrial tribunal

## 'Wizards' guilty of £240,000 con trick

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A COUPLE who used money from property and benefit fraud to fund expensive American trips to qualify as "wizards" with a religious sect were jailed yesterday.

William Kelly, 56, and his mistress Janice Willie, 60, amassed more than £200,000 from mortgage fraud and a further £43,000 from bogus income support claims.

The couple, from Horbridge, Devon, visited Florida four times to study the Avatar system, which professed to offer a "natural path to self-evolution and self-responsibility. They returned as qualified 'Master Wizards of Avatar', having spent more than £30,000.

They planned to preach a similar "gospel" in England, advertising as Vibrant Health, but were arrested after returning to Britain.

At Southwark Crown Court yesterday the Recorder William Boyce jailed Kelly for 15 months and Willie for six months. The couple were convicted on one count of conspiracy to defraud and nine of furnishing false information.

## Drug smugglers caught in Customs sting are jailed

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A GANG of drug smugglers who banded over a £10 million pound cargo of cannabis to undercover Customs officers have been jailed for between eight and 14 years.

During the case an informer claimed the plot was inspired by one of the ringleaders in the £26 million Brinks-Mat gold bullion robbery. Michael McAvo, who is serving 25 years for the bullion raid, was said to have contacted one of the organisers from Long Lartin prison.

Exeter Crown Court was told that Customs officers tipped off by the informer mounted a sting operation to seize a cargo of cannabis en route from Holland. About four tonnes of cannabis resin was transferred from the yacht *Fata Morgana* to a tug crewed by four undercover Customs men. They had been waiting 30 days for the rendezvous and were nearly out of food and water.

The operation almost foundered when the 56-ton tug sank in 13,000 feet of water in the Bay of Biscay after the pick-up in October 1996. The

four undercover Customs men spent several hours in a life raft before being picked up by a German-registered container ship.

They then took part in a second "sting" which ended in the arrest of a shore party waiting in Falmouth to collect the drug cargo. With the original cargo lost, Customs delivered cannabis from past seizures.

Yesterday Judge Sean Overend sentenced David Huck, 51, to 14 years imprisonment for captaining the *Fata Morgana*. Huck has been under suspicion by Customs as a top smuggler for 18 years.

Michael Allsop, 32, of Hayes, West London, and Norman Hitchens, 34, from Harlington, West London, were sentenced to 12 years each. Leslie Jay, 37, of Cardiff, who was in charge of the shore party, got ten years. Paul Davis, 45, and Raymond Gilholm, 46, both from Bristol, were each given nine years as organisers. David Bannister, 43, and his brother Michael, 39, both from Hull, were given eight years.

## Boys of 10 youngest in court on rape charge

BY ADRIAN LEE

TWO ten-year-old boys yesterday became the youngest defendants to appear in a British court on rape charges when they were accused of attacking a nine-year-old girl in a lavatory block at their school in West London.

Another ten-year-old boy and an 11-year-old are accused of indecently assaulting the girl during the same alleged incident, on May 6, at the inner-city primary school, which cannot be named.

The case was transferred from West London Youth Court, in Hammersmith, to the Old Bailey, at the request of the Crown Prosecution Service. The four boys, who sat in line, were given bail until their appearance at the Crown Court on a date to be fixed. No pleas were taken.

Relatives of the boys sat behind them and, as they were asked to give their names and ages. One of the four had to be helped with his date of birth. Their legal aid was extended.

A fifth boy escaped prosecution because he is aged nine, below the age of criminal responsibility.



Rubber sole ankle boot in chocolate suede

J. P. TOD'S BOUTIQUE: 35 Stone Street SW1 London. Harrod's and Joseph

## ITV rains on Auntie's perfect day

BY CAROL MIDDLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE BBC faced a wave of protest from its commercial rivals last night over a new promotion in which stars ranging from Elton John to the opera singer Lesley Garrett sing their endorsement of the corporation.

Advertisers and commercial organisations said the four-minute video, in which stars each sing a line from Lou Reed's song *Perfect Day*, amounted to a campaign which gave the BBC an unfair advantage over its rivals. They plan to report the BBC to Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary.

The BBC said the purpose of the video, estimated to have cost £2 million and being



Lou Reed, left, and Elton John sing on Perfect Day

screened on BBC1 and BBC2 until next month, was to show how it catered for everyone's musical tastes. All 29 artists charged a nominal £250 to appear. The promotion has been so successful that there are plans to launch it as

a charity CD for Christmas. Rival organisations said that, to book the same airtime, at 5pm on a Saturday, would have cost £124,000 on ITV and £50,837 on Channel 4, but they were not allowed to advertise on the BBC. They

were also angry that the BBC planned to screen the video in cinemas nationwide.

Paul Brown, chief executive of the Commercial Radio Companies Association, said: "The BBC automatically enjoys, because of its public funding and the nature of what they do, a significant cross-promotional advantage." He said the video was clearly an advertising campaign because it was made for cinema audiences for a fee.

An executive for the ITV network said: "It is a stunning piece of work, but we are not sure whether it is an appropriate way to spend licence-payers' money."

Lou Reed said he was delighted with the BBC's version of his song.



# Field follows friendly road to welfare reform

FRIENDLY societies and other mutual organisations, founded in the 18th and 19th centuries to provide insurance-based welfare for the working classes, are to play a key part in the Government's shake-up of the welfare state.

Frank Field, the Minister for Welfare Reform, said yesterday that he was talking to mutual groups, including building societies, about how they could play a substantial role in welfare provision from pensions and long-term care to unemployment benefits and help for the sick and disabled.

Because they were non-profitmaking and not answerable to City shareholders, mutual societies were accountable chiefly to their members and embodied the principles of self-help that the new Labour government was keen to promulgate, he said. Their role could be in providing tax-efficient insurance funds to cover sickness, unemployment, retirement or long-term care.

In his first major public address since the election, Mr Field, who is spearheading the government reform of social security with a mandate to "think the unthinkable", said there were still more than ten

Minister is talking to mutual societies about role, writes **Alexandra Freen**

million members of friendly societies in Britain. "These organisations are membership bodies based on the ideas of self-help, work, savings and honesty. It is around precisely these principles that the Government wishes to reform welfare — and mutual societies will have a more significant role to play in the future than they have had in the immediate past," he said. Mr Field said that taxpayers were no longer prepared simply to

let government take their money and spend it as it thought fit. They were equally suspicious of big City institutions.

"Are they wise to put their faith in companies which have a track record of mis-selling pensions, as do many of our larger financial institutions? It is at this point that mutual societies are provided with a window of opportunity," he told a seminar in London sponsored by the insurance company Consolidated Financial Insurance.

Friendly societies and other mutual bodies played a major part in the provision of welfare services up to 1945. At the beginning of this century there were millions of members across the social spectrum.

When the first steps were taken towards national insurance in 1911, friendly societies and mutual institutions both delivered the system on behalf of the Government and supplemented standard benefit levels for those who subscribed to them.

Mr Field added that he

would also like to see the creation of new community-based welfare organisations to help the disadvantaged, particularly for retired people who might otherwise become isolated from the rest of society.

He is pressing for new structures of welfare so that the link between poverty in a working life and isolated retirement can be broken. "Retirement should never be an entry gate to exclusion," he said. "New structures can offer new hope."

They key to welfare reform, Mr Field said, was to break out of the "welfare equals State" mentality and to make people take more responsibility.

The Government's version of welfare for the new millennium cannot be a one-way street and those who benefit from taxpayers' money have a responsibility to help themselves," he added.

"A new partnership can only work if both sides pull their weight. We are pledged to break the destructive mould of welfare in which Government's only responsibility is to write the cheque and the recipient's only responsibility is to cash it."



Frank Field: backing principles of self-help



Arkwright's Georgian Stanley Mills in Perthshire will be converted into 30 flats and six terraced houses

## Prince helps to save vanishing history

By Marcus Binney

THE Prince of Wales will tomorrow launch a project to save some of Britain's largest and grandest historic buildings from decay.

The first project of the new Phoenix Trust will be the restoration of Stanley Mills in Perthshire. These imposing

Georgian buildings stand on the River Day and are among the most romantically situated of the great textile mills built during the Industrial Revolution.

Two four and five storey buildings will be converted into 30 flats or maisonettes and six four-storey terrace houses, most with views over

the river. When the mills closed in 1989, both buildings were threatened with demolition. They have their origin in a dispute over patents which led the great Sir Richard Arkwright, father of the modern factory system, "to seek a razor in Scotland to shave Manchester". The original Bell Mill built by Arkwright is being restored by Historic Scotland and will be open to the public.

The director of the new trust is Kit Martin, who over the past 20 years has rescued ten country houses from decay, including Burley-on-the-Hill in Rutland, bought from the receivers of Asil Nadir. Guntton Hall in Norfolk, abandoned after a sale of the contents, and The Hazels in Bedfordshire, which the former Foreign Secretary Lord

Pym was seeking to demolish. The chairman of the trust is David Taylor, former chief executive of English Partnerships and a pioneer of private and public sector involvement in urban regeneration. The Prince will act as president.

The trust is negotiating to acquire historic buildings all over Britain. Among them is Crom Castle in Northern Ireland, which stands in 2,000 acres belonging to the National Trust. The estate is laid out around a chain of lakes with walled gardens. The trust is hoping to convert the house into homes with minimal alterations.

Writing in this month's *Perspectives*, the Prince says: "Personally, I am not prepared to sit back and see this great legacy needlessly squandered."

## Latest lottery fund 'threatens other projects'

By Peter Foster

THE heads of four bodies that distribute lottery cash yesterday warned the Government over its plans to introduce a sixth good cause to support initiatives in health, education and the environment.

The lottery chiefs — including Earl Gowrie, the Arts Council chairman, and David Sieff, chairman of the National Lottery Charities Board — expressed concern that the proposals would cause excessive bureaucracy and reduce the amount of cash available for existing lottery projects.

Their remarks came at a conference where Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, outlined his plans to set up the New Opportunities Fund using £1 billion of lottery cash. The fund, detailed in a White Paper published earlier this year, will be used to create after-school clubs, healthy living centres and to train teachers in computing and information technology.

The group including Derek Casey, chief executive of the English Sports Council, and Lord Rothschild, chairman of the Heritage Lottery Fund, also gave a warning that lottery money must not replace core government funding in health and education.

Mr Sieff, the former executive director of Marks & Spencer, said that there was a danger the New Opportunities Fund would be expensive to set up and duplicate the work of his charities board. Urging



Lord Gowrie fears Arts Council will suffer

the Government "not to reinvent the wheel", he said his board was distributing grants to many organisations to be targeted by the new fund.

Mr Casey, chief executive of the English Sports Council, said investment programmes planned by the council might have to be put on hold.

Lord Gowrie, chairman of the Arts Council of England, admitted he had "very serious worries" that it would be left with less money. The council had committed vast sums to capital projects including the controversial Royal Opera House grant.

Mr Smith reassured delegates that the new £1 billion fund had been made possible by the unforeseen success of the National Lottery. "But the five current distributors, over the course of the franchise period, will still each receive the £1.8 billion share they were originally promised," he said.

## Blunkett gets lesson in business school

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

AN ATTEMPT by ministers to persuade companies to put more money into education backfired yesterday when a top businessman urged the Government to use more of its own money to help schools to raise standards.

David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, held a breakfast meeting with senior figures from business and industry as part of an effort to revive corporate sponsorship of education. He announced a £1 million network of homework and after-school centres funded partly by the NatWest Bank, National Power and BT.

Mr Blunkett promised twice-yearly education summits with business leaders, and pointed to future opportunities for co-operation.

"Business has a vital role in helping us to raise standards. We must work together to

ensure that our young people are better motivated and therefore more employable," he said.

However, there was a sting in the tail of the businessmen's contribution. John Baker, Chairman of National Power, said the Government should be spending more on education, and offered business support for it to be given a greater share of public expenditure.

Mr Baker said: "At a time when we have fewer good graduates entering teaching and shortages of experienced head teachers, I see no alternative to the Government facing up to the need to adequately fund schools and the teaching profession."

Yesterday's initiative will establish pilot projects for the homework centres and after-school clubs to be funded from National Lottery money.

EXAMPLE: A COUPLE (MALE AND FEMALE) MOVING HOME, BOTH NON-SMOKERS, AGED 25, APPLYING FOR A FIXED RATE MORTGAGE OF £200,000 ON A PROPERTY WITH A PURCHASE PRICE OF £240,000. MONTHLY MORTGAGE PAYMENT NET OF THE HELPFUL ESTATE, 300 MONTHLY PAYMENTS, MONTHLY PAY PREMIUM £21.76, TOTAL PAYMENT £6,528.00. INCLUDES ADDITIONAL MORTGAGE SECURITY FEE £400, COUNSELLOR'S CHARGE £117.50, MORTGAGE DISBURSEMENT FEE £400, CHARGE FOR DEPOSIT OF TITLE DEEDS £15, ANNUAL INTEREST OF £177.00 ASSUMING COMPLETION ON 15.10.97. NO PROVISION FOR EARLY REPAYMENT HAS BEEN MADE. IN CALCULATING THE APR, THE EXAMPLE ASSUMES A RATE OF 6.45% APR APPLIES THROUGHOUT THE MORTGAGE TERM. POWERED BY THE LEND OF THE FIXED RATE MORTGAGE THE STANDARD VARIABLE RATE (SVR) WILL APPLY AFTER THE FIXED RATE PERIOD. AN ANNUAL INTEREST FEE WILL BE PAYABLE. SEE YOUR LOCAL OFFICE FOR DETAILS. A REPAYMENT FEE IS ONLY PAYABLE IF THE MORTGAGE IS REPAYED IN FULL BEFORE THE END OF THE FIXED RATE PERIOD. 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# Doubts that taint Saudi police case

Defence lawyers say the murder case against two British nurses would not stand up to scrutiny in a Western court, reports Daniel McGrory

SAUDI investigators were certain that they had Yvonne Gilford's killers standing before them in the interrogation room at Dhahran police station. They claimed to have caught Deborah Parry and Lucille McLauchlan using their murdered colleague's bank card.

What happened in the next 32 hours, however, has tainted the police case. Officers say they obtained signed confessions from the women that Miss Gilford was involved in a lesbian relationship with them. They also hinted at revealing the Australian staff nurse's money-lending operation, with which she was said to have extorted large payments and sex from young nurses.

Parry and McLauchlan's version of events at the police station is different to that of their interrogators. They say that they were sexually abused, beaten and threatened to make them sign bogus confessions.

Senior Saudi officials have admitted the police were so confident of the veracity of the confessions that they did not scrupulously examine the forensic evidence.

The accused were arrested at the Arab National Bank on December 18, a week after Miss Gilford was killed, and were taken to Dhahran police station.

McLauchlan, 31, from Dundee, claims that her handbag was taken from her on her arrest and that in the police station it was returned with Miss Gilford's bank card in it. She said she was shouted at and called "a thief and a harlot", slapped on the face and breasts and ordered to remove her dress. She said she was asked about her



The nurses's lawyers, Peter Watson, centre, and Rodger Pannone, right, are ready to present details of inconsistencies in the investigation

sexual affair with Miss Gilford while police touched her intimately, and one officer said he was going to rape her.

Only after she signed a confession was she allowed to sit down and dress herself. In her statement to her lawyers she said: "After 32 hours without sleep, I am willing to do or write anything to stop the physical, psychological and sexual abuse."

Parry, 38, from Alton, Hampshire, claims to have suffered the same mistreatment. "I was told I had killed Yvonne because we were having a lesbian relationship. I was sobbing with fear as I had not killed anyone and she was my friend," she told lawyers.

Parry said that several policemen stroked her body and a cigarette was held close to her eyes.

Parry claims that, after hours of abuse, McLauchlan was pushed into the room and announced: "Debbie stabbed

Yvonne in the neck, back and chest."

No substantiating evidence of Miss Gilford's sexuality and her money-lending activities was produced in court.

Defence lawyers want to know why police did not reopen the files on a Filipina nurse stabbed in the medical complex a year before, whose

murderer has never been found. They also want to know what the police investigation discovered from security guards at the complex.

Guards operated their own money-lending scheme and defence lawyers said they told Miss Gilford not to jeopardise their lucrative sideline.

Five security guards were arrested before the two nurses. All were sacked. One disappeared and two, believed to have been on duty the night Miss Gilford died, were later found badly beaten. One is thought to be related to a member of the team who obtained the confessions.

Defence lawyers are ready to present what they say are the glaring inconsistencies in the inquiry. Private investigators say medical experts who have examined the autopsy reports on Miss Gilford believe that the fatal knife blow was too powerful to have been delivered by a woman.

The autopsy showed that the kitchen knife was plunged into her back, went through her ribcage and pierced her heart.

Although Miss Gilford was stabbed 13 times and bludgeoned with a number of ornaments in her apartment, no fingerprints, bloodstains or any other forensic evidence was discovered to incriminate the Britons.

Detectives found blonde hair gripped in Miss Gilford's hand after the struggle to fight off her attacker. Neither of the accused has blonde hair. Nor have police explained the man's gold bracelet found on Miss Gilford's bedroom floor.

Not once during the trial did the Islamic judges study the evidence, the lawyers say. "All they looked at were the two confessions, which had been retracted. Never once did they examine how flimsy and circumstantial the evidence is," a source said.

A lawyer for Parry and

McLauchlan told *The Times* yesterday that they and Miss Gilford were told they could not leave the hospital complex without a supervisor knowing where they were going, and that they were often followed.

Yet the Saudi police allege that on four occasions the accused used Miss Gilford's stolen bank card to draw money from a cash machine. "Would they try this if they knew they were being followed? And why wait for them to use the card four times before arresting them?"

One legal source said "the police were so confident the confessions were enough that they got sloppy in their investigation."

"Their work would not stand up to scrutiny in a British or Western court but the Saudi judges did not examine the evidentiary material, just the confessions. Whether an appeal court does otherwise is a big doubt."

Frank Gilford, brother of the dead nurse

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## Wealthy lawyer is key player in trial

BY A STAFF REPORTER

IN THE nine months since the two British nurses were arrested for murdering their Australian colleague, only a handful of men have known the precise details of the case against them and the efforts to spare them from Saudi Arabia's medieval punishments.

The key figure is Salah al-Hejailan, the flamboyant and wealthy head of a leading Riyadh firm. He is one of the best-known lawyers in the country who sees himself as a constructive critic of its justice system.

His eponymous law firm has defended the nurses free of charge and paid for their families to visit them on several occasions. "We've spent hundreds and hundreds of hours on this case," said one of his employees.

His critics say he hopes the benefit will be that when Western corporations find themselves in conflict in Saudi Arabia they will hire his firm. He is well-connected in Saudi society; one of his brothers is the country's ambassador to Australia and is thought to have been a key figure in negotiations with Frank Gilford, the brother of the murder victim.

Now in his mid-50s, Mr Hejailan trained in America and Egypt and has practised as a lawyer for 35 years. He is the legal counsel in Riyadh for the British Embassy among others, and his firm is associated with prominent law firms in several countries. He has helped defend Britons in Saudi Arabia for more than two decades.

"I have settled small debts, provided legal service to them, looked after them in many ways and I have a special fund in my law firm for this sort of goodwill work," he said in a recent interview. "I am particularly interested in cases that can have an impression on the legal system." He believes the nurses' high profile murder case has highlighted the "clash of civilisations" between Saudi Arabia and the West but says it could help reform the Saudi legal system. Allowing the nurses to have lawyers present in court has already broken the mould which he hopes will be the pattern for the future.

Mr Hejailan has spent much of the nurses' trial flying all over the world, with visits to the South of France, London, Virginia and Alaska, all the time directing their defence from a high-technology mobile office manned by at least one secretary travelling with him.

THE TIMES on Saturday



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## Cook to discuss sentence Plea to use nursing skills

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

ROBIN COOK will hold talks today that could determine whether the sentence of 500 lashes imposed by a Saudi court on one of the two nurses will be carried out.

In discussions with Prince Saud al-Faisal, the Saudi Foreign Minister, Mr Cook will underline the abhorrence such a sentence has aroused in Britain. But he will make clear that the Government fully recognises the authority of the court and *sharia* law, and is hoping that judicial review of the case may lead to mitigation. He will emphasise

to Prince Saud the fierce reaction in Britain if the court orders the beheading of Deborah Parry.

The Government has repeatedly emphasised that the appeals procedure still had a long way to go, probably as a result of urgent Foreign Office advice that tough talk denouncing the Saudis or implying that their justice system was flawed would harden opinion in Riyadh.

On coming to office, Labour made much of the moral dimension of foreign policy and implied that it would take

a tougher line towards governments that it considered violated human rights. Mr Cook's initial comment that the sentence on Lucille McLauchlan was "wholly unacceptable in the modern world" has been described by many Arabists as a blunt judgment that may anger the Saudi authorities, especially the Islamic courts.

However, Mr Cook knows that the case can be resolved only by quiet diplomacy, and that Britain is powerless to do anything except appeal for clemency.

BOTH nurses have pleaded with Saudi officials to let them work in the hospital wing of Damman central prison in an attempt to get out of their overcrowded cell.

Amid fears that both women cannot survive a possible further two-year legal wrangle, Lucille McLauchlan's brother, John, said yesterday that both women had weakened considerably over the last few weeks. He said that a British doctor who was allowed to examine the women last month said that they are now extremely frail

and are prone to potentially fatal infections if they continue to live in their cramped and cockroach-infested cell in temperatures of more than 45C.

Their only hope now, they believe, is to sell their skills to the Saudi authorities. Both women have already used their nursing expertise to tend to the ten other women and their children in their shared cell, but face rejection now.

Both are said to have lost weight and to suffer constant diarrhoea and stomach cramps, while Deborah Parry has been given psychiatric

help for depression after inmates told how she woke in the night screaming.

McLauchlan, however, has defiantly denounced her jailers and conducts her meetings with her family in impenetrable Dundee dialect. She has also kept a diary.

Their poor diet also means both women have lost a great deal of hair. They wash by pouring a basin of water on themselves over open sewers. The lavatories are said to be choked with soiled nappies as many of the women there have their infants with them.

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# Five new rules on letting sick children die

Doctors have been given ethical guidance on a terrible decision, writes Ian Murray

FIVE situations in which doctors should consider withdrawing medical treatment from children and allowing them to die were set out by a panel of experts yesterday.

The guidelines say the decision is warranted where the child is brain dead or in a permanent vegetative state; where care delays death without easing suffering; where the child survives so physically or mentally impaired that it is unreasonable to expect it to suffer further; or where the illness is so progressive and irreversible that further treatment is intolerable.

The recommendations have been

produced by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, whose president, David Baum, said: "We are forced to wrestle with dreadful choices. The list has been drawn up because modern medical advances make it possible to sustain life without restoring health."

The new guidelines say that agreement between parents and doctors about withdrawing treatment should be unanimous and the child should also be involved if old enough. "Children take great care of

their paediatricians and nurses," said Dr Baum. "They know when to give a nod and wink if they are ready to go."

Neil McIntosh, Professor of Child Health at Edinburgh University and chairman of the college's ethics advisory committee which produced the report, said: "Children usually come to the decision even before we approach them."

If parents want healthcare to continue even though their child is in one of the five categories, the

college says the health team should go to court for legal backing to withdraw it. "If the healthcare continues in these circumstances it can become an assault," Dr McIntosh said. "The court can hear expert evidence and assessments from both sides and reach an independent decision. The parents do not have an absolute veto."

"Every paediatrician has to make decisions about whether to withhold treatment every year. By drawing all these perspectives together, what

we are trying to do is put these decisions in context and come up with a common procedure that is appropriate."

"Doctors must always allow children and parents the right to disagree and these difficult decisions should never be hurried."

The list was drawn up following a House of Lords select committee finding in 1994 that withdrawal of medical treatment might in future not be rare. Parents and patient groups, severely handicapped

youngsters, lawyers and religious groups were all consulted during the two-year deliberations.

Some of the guidelines were immediately condemned by anti-abortion and anti-euthanasia groups. Jack Scarisbrick, national chair of the charity Life, said: "Some of these proposals are quite acceptable. There always comes a point when it is not only right to withhold treatment but it would be wrong to persist. However, there does appear to be a sinister side to this document — it appears to be promoting euthanasia under the guise of old medical ethics."

## Mother 'killed' by wasp is revived six times

By A STAFF REPORTER

A WOMAN whose heart stopped six times in 15 minutes after she was stung in the throat by a wasp was saved by a teacher and two passers-by who gave her mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and heart massage.

Monica Stewart, 31, was stung as she collected her two children from Ferguslie Primary School in Paisley, Renfrewshire. Each time her heart stopped, Jim Ellis, the school's assistant head, and Ina Jordan and Katrina Piggot, who were also collecting their children, managed to restart it. Ms Jordan said: "I only knew what to do because I've just started a first aid class."

Ms Stewart had just collected her daughters, Christine, 11, and Natalie, 9, when a wasp began buzzing around her. She said: "I ran away from the children and the wasp went for my face. It must have gone into my mouth because I felt a nip in my throat and then coughed something up. And that's all I remember."

Ms Jordan said she and Mrs Piggot were waiting for their children when they saw Mr Ellis running over to Ms Stewart, who was unconscious. "He gave her mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and we started to give her heart massage," Ms Jordan said. "One moment Monica was breathing, the next she had stopped breathing. Each time I felt her pulse there was no beat. Again and again we were successful in getting her heart restarted."

"It was a real fight to keep her alive, but it's a joy to see her recovering. What an ordeal for her and for her children, who saw everything that was going on."

Ms Stewart was taken to the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley and given an injection and tablets to ease the swelling in her throat. She said: "I've always hated wasps and bees and insects like that, but after what happened to me I never want to see a wasp again. They scare me still. When I feel better I plan to say a big thank you to the three people who saved my life."

## Funeral firms face 'cash for corpses' claim

By ROBIN YOUNG

FUNERAL directors complained yesterday that unscrupulous competitors were offering "cash for corpses" at old people's homes.

Staff at homes had been offered money to place dead people in shrouds bearing the corporate logo of funeral companies, the Society of Allied and Independent Funeral Directors said.

Nursing homes had also been offered contributions to residents' funds if they registered deaths with a particular funeral company, thus virtually ensuring those firms future business, according to Tony Warburton, an executive committee member of the society.

The society blames the decline in undertaking standards on the growth of large commercial conglomerates, and has urged the Government to take action. Mr Warburton said "inappropriate, aggressive marketing tactics" were threatening professional standards across the country.

Mr Warburton, director of the East Riding Crematorium at Oulton, Yorkshire, and a partner in the Hull funeral directors John Parkin and Sons, said bigger businesses had tried to buy him out, but he had refused, preferring to adhere to "British traditions".

He said that the whole funeral profession would be brought into disrepute if the Government did not take action. He wanted funeral companies to be forced to disclose

their ownership, and claimed that more than 750 trading under family names were in fact owned by multinational businesses.

Andrew Harvey, national president of the society, said: "The society has new evidence of inappropriate sales tactics being employed to influence the recently bereaved, pensioners and nursing home staff in order to secure instructions for funeral arrangements and sales of prepaid funeral plans."

"Throughout generations those involved within the funeral profession have served bereaved families with the highest degree of professional and ethical integrity. We have a vital duty to stand up for the traditional values of our profession. These values are now in danger of being eroded by unacceptable commercial practices."

The society, which represents more than 500 independent funeral directors, is co-ordinating a Campaign for Fair Funeral Practices, and is appealing for people who felt they were subjected to high-pressure sales tactics to make contact.

Spokesmen for large funeral companies said yesterday that all undertakers tried to offer sympathetic support to old people's homes in their area. They denied improper behaviour, and said that all staff were required to adhere to codes of conduct.



The Right Rev David Sheppard and his wife, Grace, yesterday. He reiterated that poverty was a spiritual issue that ought to concern the clergy

## Bishop bows out with appeal on jobless

By RUSSELL JENKINS

IN HIS farewell sermon last night, the Bishop of Liverpool delivered an impassioned plea to politicians and churchmen to fight the corrosive effects of mass joblessness. He also defended his belief that poverty is a spiritual issue.

The Right Rev David Sheppard, 68, bowed out at an emotional ecumenical service in Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral after 22 years as bishop of the Merseyside diocese. He used the

occasion to send a message to the Government and senior ranks of the Church of England to adopt radical solutions to mass unemployment.

He told the congregation that he had once attended a public meeting where someone had asked him: "You know these powerful people. Why don't you tell them how things are?"

Bishop Sheppard said: "Well, I have tried to. Not always successfully perhaps. The biggest regret I have is this: when we came in 1975 there was mass unemployment in many parts of

the diocese. As I leave in 1997 there is still mass unemployment or dead-end jobs in those same areas. I pray the churches will run and run with the Report on Unemployment and the Future of Work. The report reminds us of the old belief that God has a calling for everyone — a calling to work, a responsibility to make their particular contribution — and that is why the report produces the bracing and costly call for 'enough good work for everyone' and shows how it is possible."

The ecumenical churches' report was published early this year. Bishop Sheppard said that some people still wondered whether poverty was a spiritual issue and the rightful concern of the clergy. He quoted from a letter written to him by a parish vicar about a man who got a job after four years of unemployment — only to find that his ability to keep that post had crumbled.

Bishop Sheppard added that unemployment attacked "the very heart of somebody's humanity: it taps at their dignity. Can we say that it is not a spiritual issue?"

## Driver in fatal crash had worked 16 hours

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

A LORRY driver who left a trail of carnage when the arm of a mechanical digger swung out in front of oncoming cars had worked for 16 hours and driven 500 miles, a court was told yesterday.

Mark Wade had no training or proper supervision and made a series of fatal errors before the crash, which left five motorists dead after the digger bucket sliced through their cars at head height.

The roofs of the cars were peeled back by the bucket and four drivers and one backseat passenger were killed instantly. Those on the passenger side were only injured in the accident at Castle-an-Dinas, near Newquay, Cornwall, in December 1995.

Truro Crown Court was told that the 31-year-old driver had failed to secure the arm of the digger on his low-loader either with a pin provided specially for the purpose, or a chain available as a back-up. The

jury was told that tiredness may have caused him to load the digger incorrectly, so that the arm was not lying flat against the bed of the lorry and could swing out when its hydraulic system failed.

A driver who saw the arm swing out as Mr Wade took a left-hand bend tried in vain to warn him by flashing his lights, but the Volvo transporter carried on and hit four cars.

The court was told how the accident happened in the dark on an unlit country road and the victims did not have time to take avoiding action before the heavy metal bucket struck.

Mr Wade, 31, of St Columb Major, near Newquay, denies five counts of causing death by dangerous driving. Each charge refers to a victim of the tragedy. They were Gwyneth Moore, 31, an amateur runner, and Kristy Green, 19, a beautician, both from Bodmin; William Barratt, 54, an agricultural contractor, Lewis

Mark Trebilcock, 28, a farmer, and Hilary Cocks, 43, a chef, all from Newquay.

Bazeley Plant Hire, of St Columb Major, and Chepstow Plant Hire both deny charges of conducting an undertaking in a way which exposed others to danger.

Charles Barton, QC, for the prosecution, said that, although Mr Wade was nominally self-employed, Bazeley and its parent company, Chepstow, bore a share of the blame because of the hours he worked and his lack of training. Mr Wade had started work at 2.30am, 16 hours before the crash. By the time of the crash he had driven for nearly 12 hours.

Mr Barton added: "The oncoming drivers only saw the low-loader's dipped headlights and had no idea that an enormous object was coming towards them at a height of about 3ft."

The trial continues.

## Self-destruct disc aims to thwart video pirates

By NICK NUTTALL  
TECHNOLOGY  
CORRESPONDENT

A VIDEO disc that self-destructs, rather like the instructions in *Mission Impossible*, has been developed by researchers. The system could stop the pirating of tapes from rented videos.

The video disc has a computer chip that gives it a 24-hour life. The technology is based on digital video discs, the film versions of compact discs.

The Digital Video Express (Divx) consortium, based in Virginia, is pushing the idea of developing the discs for the video rental market. It has convinced Hollywood studios, including Disney, Paramount and Steven Spielberg's Dreamworks, to sign up to the \$150 million project, according to a report in *New Scientist*.

The key to the development is an encryption system that scrambles the film on the disc. It is then unscrambled by a special player developed by Divx. An internal clock runs when the disc is played and disables it after 24 hours. The consortium claims that the discs will cost about only £3.

Not all consumer and entertainment electronics companies support the project, including Warner Home Video. There is also concern that the encryption system is of such a high standard that the US Government will ban its export on security grounds.

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Five people were killed by the digger, above. Wade allegedly failed to secure its arm



## Eight-mile putt puts records to flight

By ADRIAN LEE

THE American golfer Brad Faxon has entered the record books with a putt that travelled 8½ miles in 23 seconds. He sent the ball rolling 120ft down the passenger cabin of Concorde as it flew at 1,330 miles an hour on a flight taking the US Ryder Cup team from New York to Málaga.

The challenge was set up by Captain Jock Lowe, a member of the Concorde Golfing Society. "The idea is to putt as slowly as possible, giving Concorde time to fly as many miles as possible before the ball comes to rest at the back of the plane,"

he said. The ball rolled along the carpet, past bags of duty-free goods and seat legs in a perfect line. The longest recorded putt anywhere is 140ft, by Bob Cook at St Andrews in October 1976.

Faxon, 36, borrowed a hickory-shafted antique club to achieve his feat on the second attempt. He is renowned as one of the game's best putters, although at the last Ryder Cup he missed a six-footer to hand victory to his singles opponent.

Captain Lowe, an 18-handicapper, said yesterday: "It was a formidable achievement, and from the European perspective it does not augur too well for the defence

of the Ryder Cup." Tony Jacklin, the former European team captain, was among the first to take the challenge. While British Airways may have unwittingly given the Americans a psychological advantage for the Ryder Cup, the Europeans can always claim that the achievement was altitude-assisted.

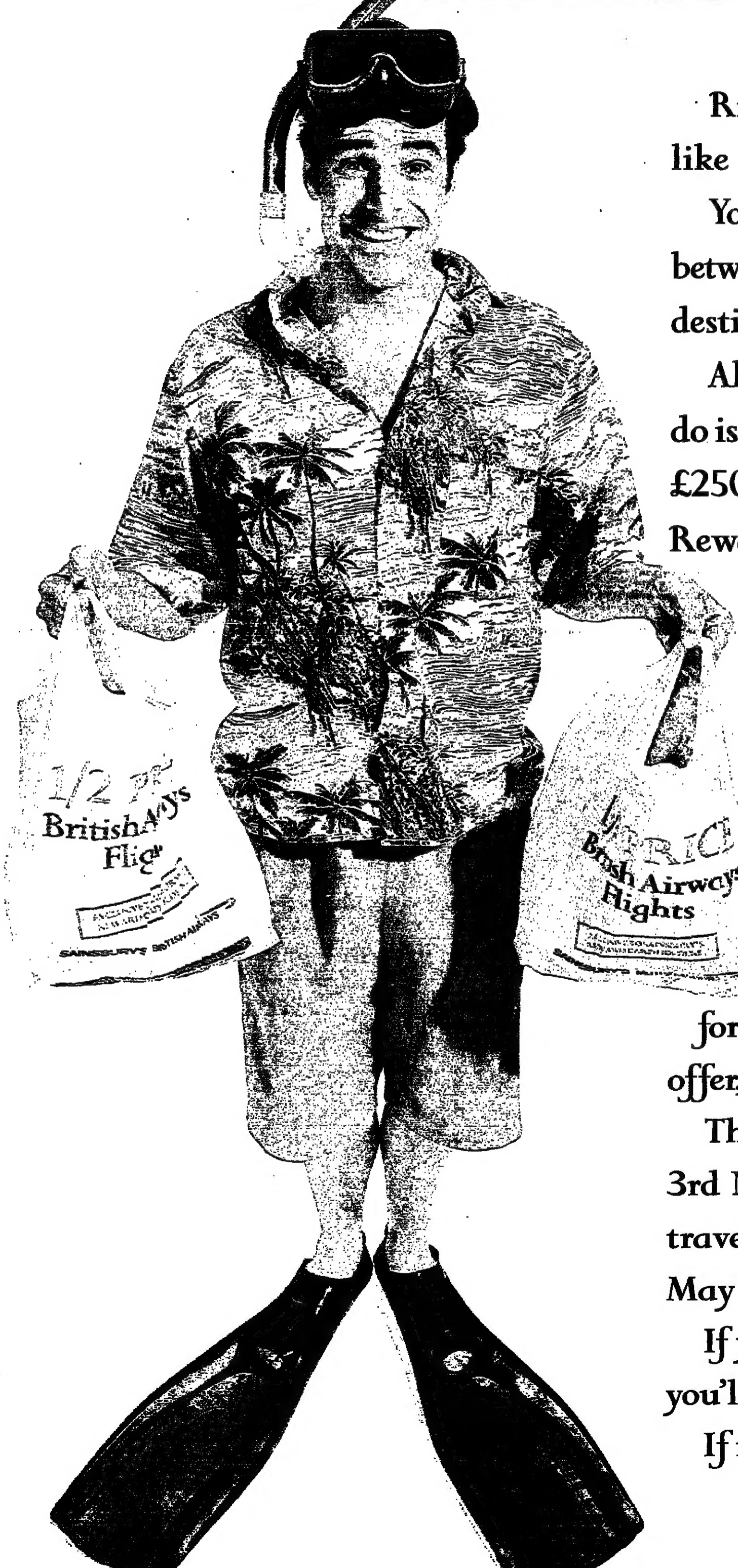
Faxon's putt was not the only record broken on the flight. Concorde completed the journey to Málaga in 3 hours 25 minutes, the fastest passenger flight from New York to southern Spain.

Ryder Cup golf, pages 44, 48

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# St Paul's finds modern creed is beyond belief

By RUTH GLEDHILL  
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

CLERGY and worshippers at St Paul's Cathedral are puzzled why an unauthorised, "politically correct" version of the creed, the universal statement of Christian belief, has been inserted into services without their knowledge or consent.

Surprised churchgoers at 11am Holy Communion found themselves saying the new creed, in which the word "men" was omitted and the description of Christ's conception altered.

The Dean, Dr John Moses, admitted yesterday that an error had been made and said that the creed, last used on Sunday, would appear in services no more. "It appears that, on this occasion, we have made a small mistake," he said.

Canon Stephen Oliver, the precentor in charge of liturgy at St Paul's and a member of the General Synod's liturgical commission, decided to test the creed to discern any problems before it is debated again in the synod in November.

## AUTHORISED VERSION

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty...

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and was made man...

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

Nicene Creed from the 1980 Alternative Service Book Rite A

## UNAUTHORISED VERSION

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty...

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man...

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

Nicene Creed used in St Paul's, taken from Praying Together, prepared by the English Language Liturgical Consultation, 1992

version of the Nicene Creed, issued by the Council of Constantinople in 381. The new version is being examined by the General Synod of the Church of England for inclusion in a service book that will succeed the much-decried 1980 Alternative Service Book at the millennium.

The word "men" is omitted from the line "for us men and for our salvation". Christ is said to become incarnate "of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary", instead of by the power of the Holy Spirit "of the Virgin Mary".

In the Church of England, any change to the liturgy must, under the law of the land, be thoroughly approved by church members through their elected General Synod before it can be used.

One of the cathedral's clergy said: "It is more of a confusion than a punch-up. Some of us are concerned to know what is going on. One or two members of the congregation have raised questions about it with me. They came up after the service and asked whether there wasn't something funny about it."

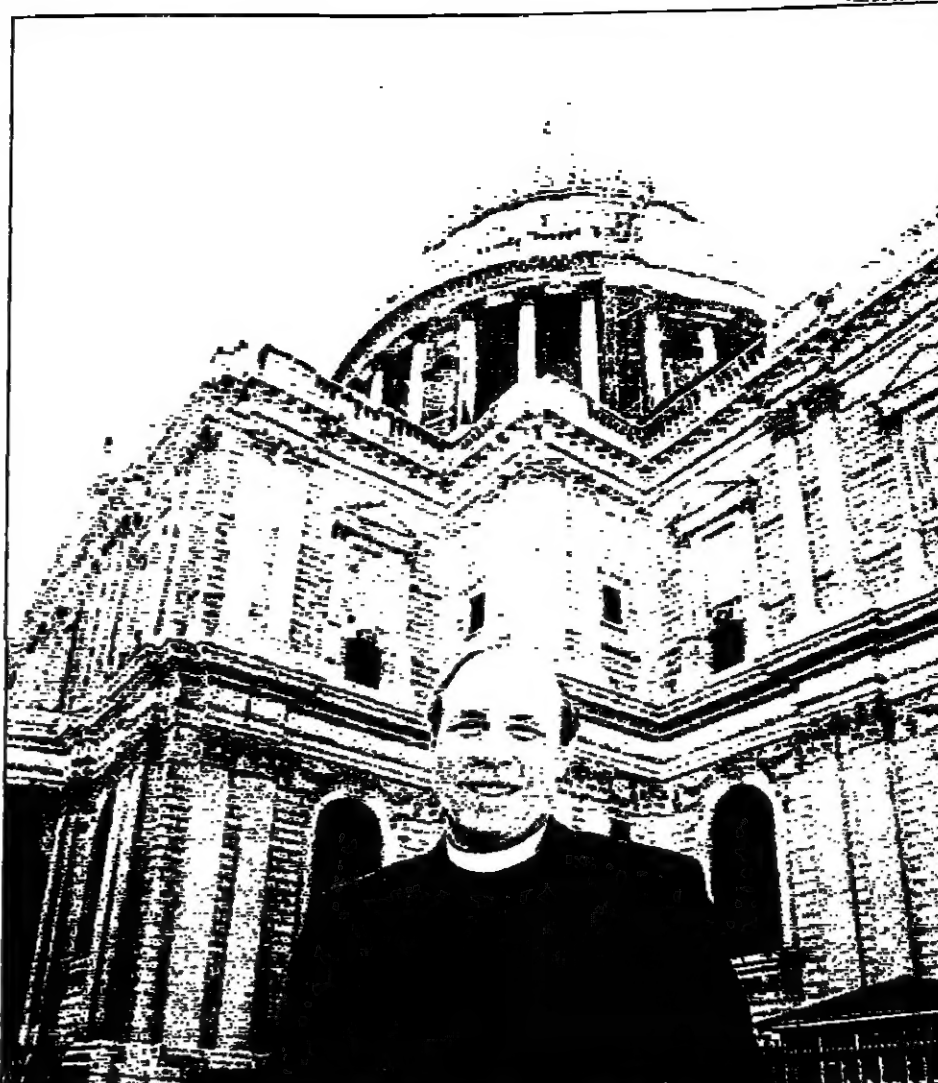
ber. Although the Dean was aware of his plans, St Paul's Chapter was not consulted. The issue was debated by the chapter yesterday, when the canons agreed that it had been a "valuable experiment".

Canon Oliver said: "We learnt valuable lessons from it. There are actually bigger issues around at the moment than this." Canon Michael Saward said: "We don't want to cause any trouble and we will go back to Rite A from the Alternative Service Book. The

experiment was reckoned not to be the best thing for us to do. It was an entirely amicable debate."

One worshipper, who asked not to be named, said he was surprised that an unauthorised change was made to a particularly sensitive feature of the liturgy in a cathedral regarded as the flagship of the Church of England. "It is a politically correct creed," he said. "We were all most surprised to see it there."

The creed is a modified



John Moses, the Dean of St Paul's: "It appears that we have made a small mistake"

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Stowaway survivor to be deported

A stowaway who leapt from a porthole on a cargo vessel and survived for four hours in the sea before reaching Flat Holm, an island in the Bristol Channel, is to be sent back to the Dominican Republic, immigration officials have said.

The man, named only as Alexander, jumped into the Bristol Channel with his half brother after being discovered by the ship's crew. The other man is not thought to have survived.

### Flights dropped

British Airways is to drop its Glasgow to New York and Boston service after losing £7 million in three years. It blamed delays in linking with American Airlines, which would have provided thousands of transfer travellers.

### Royal estate raid

Ramraiders stole clay pigeon shooting equipment worth nearly £7,000 from the Queen's Sandringham estate. They used a pick-up truck to smash through 6ft-high, padlocked steel gates into a shooting school.

### Refugee jailed

Haroon Matovu, 40, a Ugandan refugee living in London, drove into a cyclist and then mounted the kerb and killed a 62-year-old woman as he tried to flee. An Old Bailey judge jailed him for five years and recommended deportation.

### River rescue

Marion Watson, 77, was rescued from a car she had just bought as it sank in the River Yare at Reedham, Norfolk. She had mistakenly pressed the accelerator of the automatic car after pulling into a riverside car park.

### Charitable tale

Thomas the Missing Christmas Tree, a story featuring Thomas the Tank Engine written by the parents of Jack Fenwick, 2, who died of meningitis, is published today price £1 in aid of the National Meningitis Trust.

### Neolithic find

A boy of 11 discovered a 5,500-year-old axe on the beach at Saltham, near Redcar. The rare example of polished Lake District greenstone dates from neolithic times. James Fenwick found it while walking with his grandfather.

### Late delivery

A message in a bottle sent six years ago by two Britons on holiday in Corfu has been found on the banks of the Elbe in Germany. Paul Jennings, 17, of Canterbury, and his sister, Claire, 19, threw the bottle from a pedalo.

## Monks may return to their prior address

By OUR RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A ROMAN Catholic order is being invited to return to one of its medieval priories for the first time since it was expelled by Henry VIII 460 years ago. After a 35-year restoration project, Gloucester council officials have said that the 15th-century Blackfriars priory in the heart of the city could now be reoccupied by Dominican monks.

Bob Duncan, the chairman of the leisure committee, said: "The plan is to move the Dominican archive and the seven monks tending it — who are currently in Edinburgh — to a purpose-built addition to the Blackfriars monastery complex."

"It will be marvellous to have monks in the city again. In medieval times, Gloucester had five monasteries, 12 churches and a population of only 3,000. We would like to explain this history to tourists and visitors by using the Blackfriars buildings."

The council has put in a bid for £8 million from Lottery funds to build an exhibition centre and a new Dominican library at the site, which after the dissolution became a private house, then a glove factory and a bottling works.

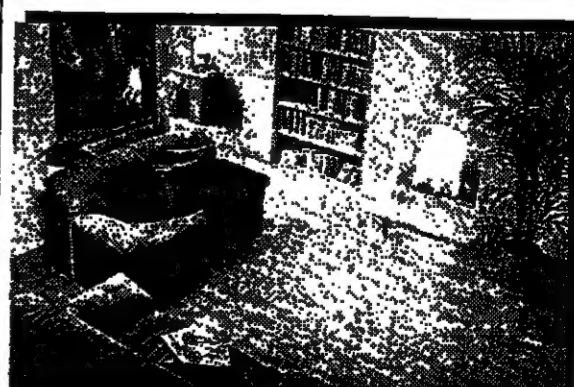
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Flatekval: hacked in

## Graduate ran phone fraud on Internet

By PAUL WILKINSON

A COMPUTER studies graduate faces prison after he helped to set up a multimillion-pound Internet telephone fraud from his bedroom.

Omar Flatekval, 23, who has just been awarded his degree, "hacked" into the computers of the American Telephone and Telephone Company, stole details of telephone charge cards held by customers and sold them on the Internet.

The scam is estimated to have cost subscribers with the international communications giant up to £10 million for calls they did not make over three years. It also cost AT&T \$17 million (£10.8 million) to put the problem right. Police found 61,500 calling cards logged on Flatekval's computer system and estimate that he made up to £50,000. Users posted cash in padded envelopes.

On Monday the graduate of Northumbria University, Newcastle upon Tyne, admitted conspiracy to defraud when he appeared at Newcastle Crown Court. The hearing was adjourned to ascertain how important he was in the conspiracy.

Outside court, Flatekval, of Cramlington, Northumberland, said: "I regret what happened but I don't consider myself a criminal. I haven't hurt anyone and I haven't affected the British economy."

## National maths targets too low, says Woodhead

THE Government's expectations of children in mathematics may be too low, Chris Woodhead, Chief Inspector of Schools, said yesterday as he disclosed wide variations in standards.

A report launched by Mr Woodhead found too little attention being given to mental arithmetic and learning tables. In one school, only one seven-year-old per class could write down a two-digit number expressed in words, while in another almost all could.

The Office for Standards in Education said in its report that Britain's poor showing in international comparisons suggested that even schools scoring close to the national average must have low standards. Mr Woodhead said primary schools had to aim above the present national targets if sufficient improvement were to be made.

He urged the Government's new qualifications agency to keep the standard of national tests under review. "If we are not expecting enough in the tests, then clearly we are not stretching children enough and aren't going to make up the gap with our international

Even primary schools doing well in league tables must try harder, reports

John O'Leary

competitors." England and Scotland were in the bottom third of the 42 countries taking part in the latest international survey of mathematics.

The results of this year's national tests in mathematics, English and science, to be published today, are expected to show modest improvement. But performance in primary schools will be far adrift of the Government's target for mathematics of 75 per cent reaching the expected level for an 11-year-old by 2002. Only 55 per cent did so last year.

Mr Woodhead said he believed the Government's target could be met with ease if schools adopted the teaching methods identified as success-

ful in yesterday's report. These included whole-class teaching, rather than the "debilitating" over-use of individual work which often required children to "plough through" a succession of worksheets.

The prospect of more difficult tests was greeted with alarm by teachers' organisations. David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "To keep changing the ground rules for national tests would only undermine the Government's standards drive and make it look foolish. We should stick to the 75 per cent target, which is challenging enough in itself, and then look again when we have met it."

Yesterday's report focused on the teaching of seven and 11-year-olds in Knowsley and Greenwich and Newham in London. More than 160 lessons were observed by the local education authorities' own inspectors and those from Ofsted, and children were set specially commissioned tests.

The report said the results indicated progress since 1995, when nearly two-thirds of the schools surveyed were below the national average. All three authorities were in the bottom 20 for mathematics in last year's primary league tables.

The inspectors acknowledged that fluency in English might be a factor in pupils' poor mathematics because it could hamper understanding of questions, but Mr Woodhead said schools could not use pupils' backgrounds as an excuse for failure.

Only one lesson in ten was judged demanding for a seven-year-old, with a third of lessons limiting the range of numbers used to 20. Some schools did not expect pupils to learn tables because arithmetic could be checked by calculator, but teaching in the use of calculators was poor.

Where expectations were too low, that often reflected the limits of teachers' own knowledge, the report said.

Stephen Byers, the School Standards Minister, described the existing targets as "challenging" and said that changes to teacher training should help to meet them.



Terry Marsh and his fiancée, Gill Scally, arriving at court yesterday for the verdict

## Ex-boxer Terry Marsh cleared of grant fraud

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

TERRY MARSH, the former world boxing champion, was cleared yesterday of a fraud charge which has already cost him his chance of a political career. It was the second time in seven years he had walked free from a court, having been acquitted at the Old Bailey in 1990 of the attempted murder of Frank Warren, his former manager.

This time a jury at Southwark Crown Court in South London took only 15 minutes to clear him of falsifying a student grant application after a two-day trial.

Mr Marsh, 39, resigned in April as Liberal Democrat parliamentary candidate for his home town of Basildon,

Essex, after he was charged. The prosecution related to his receiving more than £9,400 in maintenance grant and tuition fees in 1995 from the London Borough of Tower Hamlets for a two-year Higher National Diploma course in computer studies at Guildhall University.

The prosecution accused him of deliberately failing to mention, when applying for the grant, that he already had a degree in politics and government at the same university, for which he was funded by Essex County Council. He was therefore not entitled to the grant.

The former IBF light-welterweight champion kissed

his fiancée, Gill Scally, after the verdict, walked across to the jury of seven women and five men and invited them for a celebratory drink.

Outside the court Mr Marsh — a former firefighter who was dubbed "the Fighting Fireman" — said: "I am not relieved, because I have always been quietly confident." He added that he was disappointed with Tower Hamlets education department's investigation into the affair. "If they had contacted me, as opposed to contacting a newspaper, then a simple investigation could have been put, and then it would not have been necessary to go as far as it has."

Mr Tonkin added: "There is a lot of discussion to take place but there is a lot of interest on all sides. It would be part of health education in schools. We already have extensive drugs awareness programmes."

## Girls may be taught to check for breast cancer

By PAUL WILKINSON

GIRLS as young as 13 could be getting lessons in how to examine themselves for breast cancer in the first scheme of its kind in the country.

Education and public health officials in west Yorkshire are considering a pilot scheme for schools in the Kirklees area as part of a wider policy of improving the population's well-being.

Education service officers at Kirklees council and representatives of local health trusts are to canvass the opinion of secondary school head teachers, and hope to have the trial in place by next summer.

Gavin Tonkin, the council's head of strategy and school support, said: "The council has a strong line on a healthy environment and population and this was seen as a possible contributor to that. It was a result of people talking about health initiatives and was an idea which emerged from discussions between the education service and local health trusts."

"It was deemed a sensible idea to take forward." He said the council was not aware of any similar schemes in Britain.

"The next stage is to talk to secondary heads to see if schools will take it on as a pilot scheme and see what the advantages and pitfalls are. It has to be handled very sensitively. We are not going to be forcing any schools to take part. Ideally, we need a couple of schools to act as volunteers and talk with parents and governors about it."

He envisaged that a health education official would give classroom advice on how pupils should examine themselves. Initially the scheme would involve older girls of 15 or 16 or sixth formers, but it would aim gradually to increase the number of girls receiving the tuition, including those of 13 or 14.

Mr Tonkin added: "There is a lot of discussion to take place but there is a lot of interest on all sides. It would be part of health education in schools. We already have extensive drugs awareness programmes."

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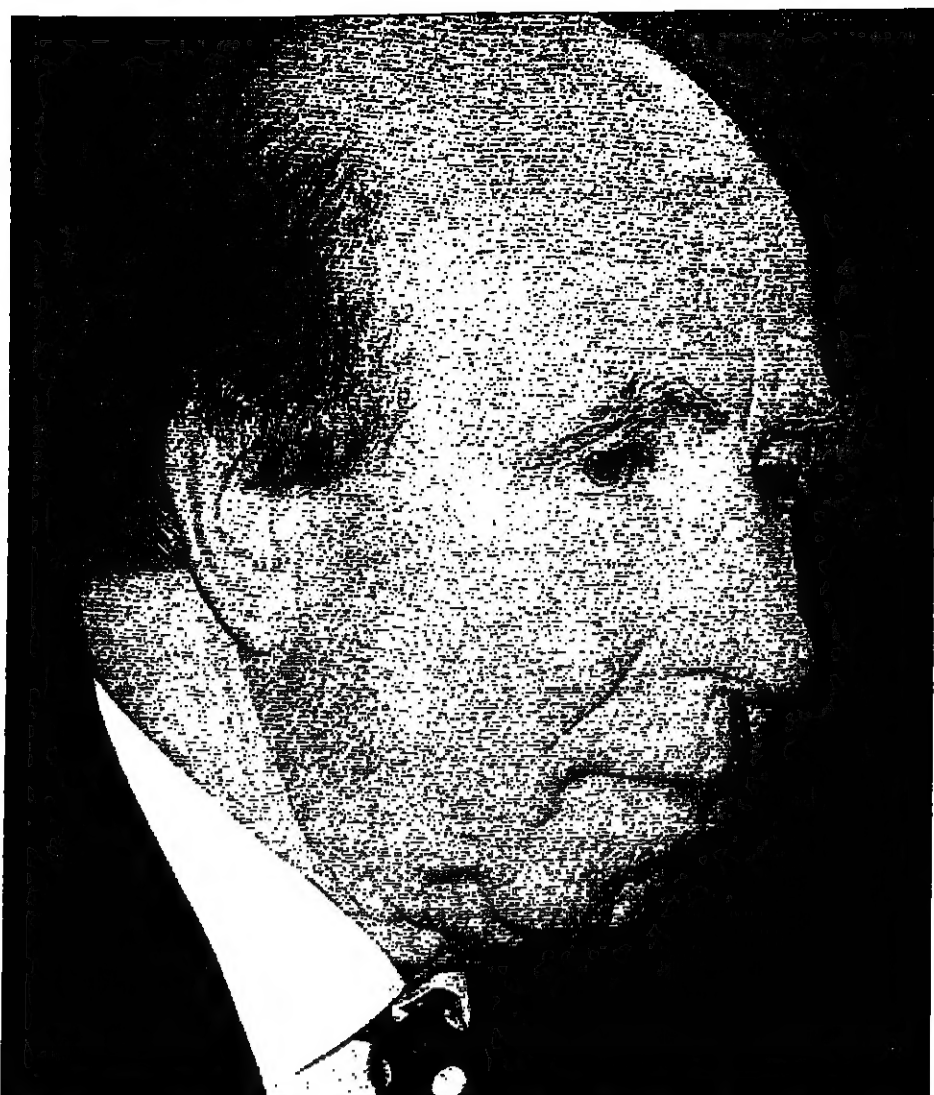
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## Older men have better chance of founding dynasty

OLDER men who marry younger wives in the hope of producing a male heir have a good chance of success, according to a study of birth records. It shows that women who are significantly younger than their husbands have a greater chance of producing boys as their firstborn children. The opposite applies to women who are older than their husbands.

The discovery may help to explain why the proportion of male children tends to rise significantly in times of war. During both world wars there was a surge in male births. There was also an increase in the age difference between husbands and wives.

Men who have married much younger women and had a son as their firstborn child include Dudley Moore, 62, who has a two-year-old son, Nicholas, with his wife, Nicole, 32. Lord Bethell, 58, and his wife Bryony, 31, have a son, John. Bruce Forsyth, 69, and his wife, Winella, 39, have a son, JJ, who is 11.

The study, by Dr John Manning and colleagues from the Population Biology Research Group at Liverpool University, is based on 301 families from the Liverpool area. The team reports in *Nature* that the age gap between the parents is significantly correlated with the sex of their first child.

In couples in which the husband was up to five years

Husbands with younger wives are more likely to sire boys as their firstborn, writes Nigel Hawkes

older than his wife, there were 117 firstborn sons and 84 daughters. When the age difference was between five and 15 years, there were 37 sons and 20 daughters.

When the wife was the older partner, the opposite effect was observed. Wives who were between one and nine years older than their husbands had 14 sons and 29 daughters. For the period between 1911 and 1952, there was a clear link between older husbands and the tendency to produce firstborn sons.

Ages at marriage also show



Boys first: Dudley Moore, left, and Bruce Forsyth

that, at the time of both wars, there was a sharp increase in the tendency of women to marry older men. "It may be that, during wartime, women prefer to marry older men with high resources", the team suggests. An alternative possibility is that younger men are more likely to be away fighting.

The team admits that it does not know how the sexual selection process works. Two possibilities are that women may unconsciously favour sperm bearing either the X or the Y chromosome, or that male babies in the womb may be favoured, equally unconsciously, leading to a greater miscarriage rate for female babies.

People in powerful positions tend to marry younger women, according to Dr Manning. "People have looked at American presidents and European royalty and business leaders, and they have tended to find they have a slight excess of sons," he said.

"If rank and resources pass down the male line, then it is in the evolutionary interests of such people to produce male heirs. Poorer people, on the other hand, have no rank or wealth to pass down, and men from these classes tend to marry women their own age or older.

Their best interest may be served by producing daughters who can marry upwards and raise the family's status."



An aircraft silhouetted against the Moon, which was made from debris from the Earth's crust and mantle

## Moon grew in less than a year

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE Moon was created in less than a year from a cloud of debris blasted from the Earth by a huge impact, according to Japanese and American astronomers.

They used computers to simulate the results of a variety of impacts by rogue "protoplanets" early in the Earth's history.

It has been accepted since 1984 that the likeliest origin of the Moon was the accretion of debris from the Earth. But the new simulations suggest two changes to the accepted theory. First, they show that the impacting object, hitherto believed to have been about the size of Mars, must have been at least three times larger to create the Moon. Second, they show that lunar

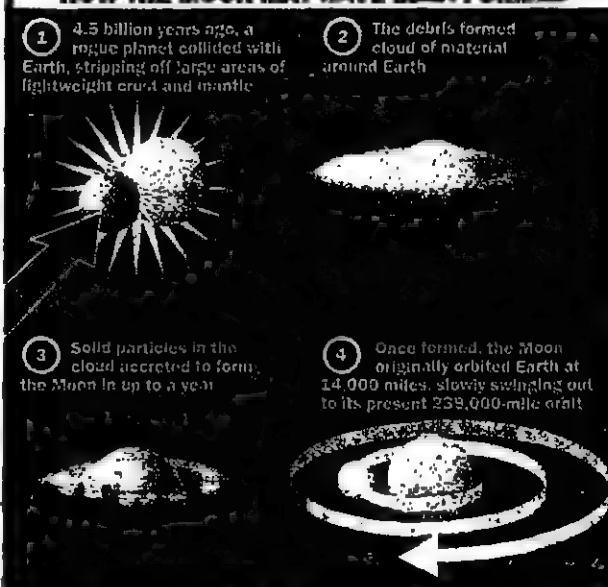
formation would have been very rapid.

Siguru Ida, of Tokyo Institute of Technology, and Robin Canup and Glen Stewart, of Colorado University, report in *Nature* that the Moon formed within 100 to 1,000 orbits. As the orbital period was about ten hours, that means within a month to a year.

Not all the lightweight material stirred up by the impact of the rogue planet went into the Moon. Most of it fell back to Earth, but the rest formed an object that must have loomed enormous in the sky. It was about 14,000 miles from the Earth, nearly 20 times closer than today.

Leading article, page 21

### HOW THE MOON MAY HAVE BEEN FORMED



## Jet pilots mistrust latest fly-by-wire aircraft

By NICK NUTTALL

MANY airline pilots feel uncomfortable with the latest computer-controlled cockpits compared with traditional dials and controls found on older jets.

More than 60 per cent of those flying the most advanced planes, primarily those made by Airbus in Europe, said the technical manuals were "inadequate", compared with 23 per cent of those flying older jets.

The pilots of more advanced airliners also complained of a lack of sensory stimulation because they no longer needed to keep their hands on the controls. More than half said they were not given adequate technical updates. Pilots of the advanced aircraft were twice as likely to consider their training inadequate.

The findings, reported in *New Scientist*, come from a survey by Cockpit, an association of German pilots. Most of the complaints were about the Airbus A320, A330 and A340 — the "fly-by-wire" computer-controlled aircraft.

The survey was carried out before the Boeing 777, Airbus's competitor, came into service with German airlines. Ralf Beyer, of the German Government's Institute for Flight Guidance, said that pilots had responded more positively to the Boeing plane, which gave them more freedom to override computer systems.

John Mazon, of the Airline Pilots Association in Washington, said: "Airbus has a reputation for designing things with the attitude that the designers know better than the pilots." A spokesman for Airbus Industrie in Toulouse said pilots might initially mistrust the cockpits, but grew to trust the new technology.

Safety specialists have voiced concern over growing automation which gives pilots little to do during long flights. An American Airlines Boeing 757 crashed in Colombia in 1995 after the pilots, who were using autopilot, lost track of where they were. They programmed the jet to fly towards a position it had passed. It banked, trying to double back, and flew into a mountain.

## Alarm rings for fish scientists

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

SOME fish can detect very high-frequency sounds, scientists have found, in a discovery which casts doubt on the effectiveness of measures to stop dolphins from being caught in nets.

The fish may have the ability so that they can detect the ultrasonic echo-locating "clicks" of predators such as dolphins and porpoises. Experts said the findings brought into question the use of acoustic alarm systems or

"pingers" being developed to save dolphins and porpoises from being entangled in nets.

Preliminary reports, earlier in the year, indicated that the net-attached devices, which emit ultrasonic noises, can ward off marine mammals. But the discovery that prey of dolphins, such as herring, can also detect sounds up to 180kHz, may mean the "pingers" are worthless.

"It appears that the 'pingers' simply scare the fish away,

making it less likely that a hungry dolphin will go near the nets in the first place. The findings, from David Mañá, Zhongmin Lu and Arthur Popper, of the University of Maryland's zoology department, are published in *Nature*.

Mark Simmonds, of the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society, said that the research showed the danger of putting faith in a simple technology to resolve "a complex fisheries problem".

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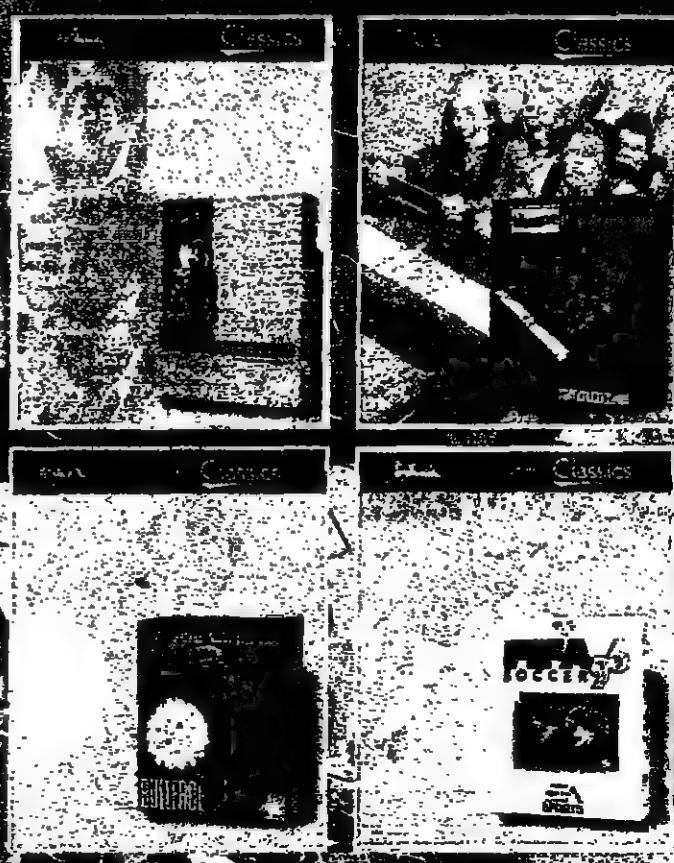
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# Darling gives Lib Dems 'responsibility' warning

By POLLY NEWTON  
POLITICAL REPORTER

A CABINET minister told the Liberal Democrats last night that they must be responsible about public spending if they wanted to work with the Labour Government.

Alistair Darling, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said the Government welcomed Paddy Ashdown's call yesterday for his party to be willing to compromise in achieving greater co-operation with Labour. "But if there is to be influence in power and influence in government, then that influence has to be exercised in a responsible manner, recognising the hard decisions that have to be made."

Mr Darling, who is thought to be the first Cabinet minister to speak at a rival party's annual conference, was addressing a fringe meeting held in Eastbourne by the Liberal Democrat Business Forum. His comments followed the attack on Mr Ashdown in *The Times* this week by Peter Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio.

Mr Mandelson accused the



EASTBOURNE

Liberal Democrat leader of playing a "dangerous game" of personally supporting closer collaboration but publicly opposing Labour's decision to keep Tory spending plans. He said the Lib Dems would not win support simply by promising higher spending.

Last night Mr Darling told the Lib Dems that it was very much part of new Labour's approach to co-operate with other parties and with those who were not in politics. He said Labour had worked very successfully on the constitutional convention with the Liberal Democrats.

He predicted that such dialogue would continue for years to come between the two parties. "We will continue to

work together where there is that common purpose. I very much agree with what Paddy Ashdown said this afternoon when he said that no party has a monopoly on political wisdom. We can learn and should learn from each other without losing our individual identities."

Mr Darling said if somebody had told him ten years ago that he would be in the Cabinet and sharing a platform with Liberal Democrats he would have been amazed. "It is something of a sign of the changed politics in this country... I'm sure that in years to come that exchange will continue. If we ever reach a situation where parties which have much in common as well as their differences cannot speak to each other, I think democracy would be the loser."

Addressing Lib Dem criticism that the Government was not investing enough in education, Mr Darling emphasised that hard choices had to be made. He defended the Government for its decision to implement the Dearing report by imposing tuition fees on

students entering higher education. "We have got to face the fact that the present system was unsustainable."

He said that even the Liberal Democrats' policy of putting an extra penny on income tax to pay for investment in education would not be enough to solve the problem.

Sir Ian Wigglesworth, chairman of the Liberal Democrat Business Forum, said he could think of no other occasion when a Cabinet minister had spoken at a rival party's conference. "There really could be no better example of the new politics of debate and discussion which Paddy Ashdown talked about earlier today." He described Mr Darling as being "like a lion in a den of Danials".

Malcolm Bruce, the Liberal Democrat Treasury spokesman, said: "I am sorry to see Alistair Darling responding so tactically to the Liberal Democrats' constructive opposition. I think that it shows our criticisms of Labour's plans for the NHS and education are hitting home in Downing Street and indeed right across the country."



THE former Liberal leader Jeremy Thorpe made his first appearance at a party conference for almost 20 years yesterday (Polly Newton writes). Mr Thorpe (above), who has Parkinson's disease, was warmly applauded as he took his seat. He struggled to his feet and clasped his hands above his head to acknowledge the cheers. Later he clapped several times during Paddy Ashdown's speech and joined the standing ovation at the end. A party

## Thorpe given a warm welcome

spokesman said that only ill health had prevented Mr Thorpe from appearing on the conference platform alongside Mr Ashdown. Mr Thorpe, 68, stood down as Liberal leader in 1976 after nine years. In 1979 he was ac-

quitted of conspiracy to murder and has made very few public appearances since. A spokesman for Mr Ashdown paid tribute to Mr Thorpe, describing his leadership as inspirational. "The party had a long, hard, climb back from the wilderness years in the 1940s and 1950s and the contribution of Jo Grimond, Jeremy Thorpe and David Steel to that climb-back, and to the position the party finds itself in now, has been immense."

## Ashdown is right and his activists know it

THE Liberal Democrats do have a distinctive identity and their long-term future lies in co-operating with Labour. That strategy, forcefully reaffirmed by Paddy Ashdown yesterday, has stood up to the buffetting it has received in Eastbourne — which has anyway been mild by comparison with the tremors which hit the old Alliance over nuclear defence policy when the Liberals last visited the town in 1986.

Of course, the emergence of the Blairite new Labour Party has challenged the Lib Dems. There are dangers in the party positioning itself self-consciously to the left of the Government. That will not win votes in the South West. Mr Ashdown rightly gave warning that a "defence of decent public services" should not be confused with a fossilised defence of yesterday's state sector, and quality of service to consumers should not be undermined by "the special pleading of producers". The Lib Dems have at times appeared to be revealing in being the party of public spending and taxes.

Nonetheless, the question posed by Mr Ashdown: "Imagine British politics without the Liberal Democrats", is pertinent. This is not just a question of its separate electoral support and ideology, and more a matter of diversity. The two main parties often play safe, avoiding awkward questions. While the Lib Dems can be self-righteous about their candour, they have helped to challenge the official orthodoxy. Public debate would be

### RIDDELL ON POLITICS

much narrower without them.

But, as Mr Ashdown argued, the Lib Dems should not be satisfied with their local strength or being a conventional opposition. The political system is changing and this offers the Lib Dems a big opportunity. This is primarily because of Tony Blair's boldness. He has opened the door to a more pluralist approach, by, for example, setting up the consultative Cabinet committee. No one, and probably not Mr Blair himself, knows where this will lead — whether he wants new Labour to take over the whole centre ground with the Lib Dems as a subsidiary or whether he really believes in a multi-party system.

But Mr Ashdown is right that the Lib Dems have to take risks and cannot have "an excessive concern" for their own purity. No one at Eastbourne has seriously questioned Mr Ashdown's underlying approach. The worries expressed by Lib Dem MPs and activists have been more an assertion of independence and resentment at being patronised by Big Brother Labour. There has been a desire not to rush ahead too fast.

The politics of co-operation now faces tests both of style and substance. The two parties have to find ways of talking which do not annoy the other. Just as the Lib Dems resent being told they

are "on trial" and being told not to criticise any aspect of government policy, so Labour leaders understandably believe that partnership implies a degree of self-restraint. Accusations of "betrayal" are hardly the way to inspire trust. Such tensions could, though should not, derail the talks.

Far more serious is the question of electoral reform for the House of Commons. A commission will be set up in about a month to consider a proportional alternative to the first-past-the-post system to be put to voters in a referendum. Lord Jenkins of Hillhead is the favourite to be chairman, though he will want to be sure of Mr Blair's commitment. The commission will include independent members like the Nolan committee. The key time will be in a year when it reports and Mr Blair has to decide whether to come off the fence. That will determine whether the parties become closer, or move apart. But, at present, the momentum for change is much greater than looked likely immediately after the general election.

PETER RIDDELL

## Leaders consider flexible PR line

By JILL SHERMAN

THE Liberal Democrat leadership signalled yesterday that it would have to compromise over a proposed system of proportional representation for electing MPs.

The conference gave overwhelming backing to the purest form of PR, the single transferable vote (STV). The party will now recommend this to the commission on PR set up by Labour to choose a system to be put to the voters in a referendum. But leadership sources said that it was highly unlikely that STV would be acceptable to the commission and hinted that the Liberal Democrats might have to agree to a similar system to that being used for the Scottish parliament.

Under this method, the additional member system, more than half the seats are decided by first-past-the-post with the rest done on a party list basis. Senior Lib Dem MPs have argued that if the party has accepted it in Scotland and Wales, it would seem reasonable to accept it in Westminster.

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## Lib-Lab NHS group urged

By POLLY NEWTON

SIMON HUGHES called yesterday for the establishment of a cross-party convention to work on ways of improving the National Health Service.

Raising the prospect of further co-operation with Labour, the Liberal Democrat health spokesman said: "There is one coalition that the British people want politicians to sign up to now. A coalition to secure the future of the NHS."

Health professionals and patients' representatives would sit on the committee, but political parties should be allowed to join only if they committed themselves to spending enough on the NHS. He called on the Government to commit £350 million immediately to start cutting waiting lists, recruiting new staff and improving pay and conditions. Labour should remember the promises it made before the election, he said.

"If you win an election on specific pledges to reduce waiting lists, and waiting lists go up, and people start asking when they will come down, you need to do better than say you really don't know."

Mr Hughes said that the Liberal Democrats would also be campaigning for a new independent inspectorate of health and social care. "If the

country needs an Office for Standards in Education, it equally needs an Office for Standards in Health."

Alexi Sugden from Hammersmith and Fulham, supporting a motion that called on the Government to avert an impending winter "crisis" in the NHS, said that Labour was condoning the rationing of medical treatment for financial reasons. "What happened to all those fine promises?"

Richard Younger-Ross of Teignbridge said the Chancellor's first-aid box was nearly empty "except for the odd sticking plaster and bandage he gave us in his Budget".

The motion, which also called for less fluctuation in funding from year to year, was carried overwhelmingly.

□ The conference backed a motion to oppose any attempt by the Government to introduce charges for contraceptive pills. Opening the debate, Justine McGuinness, chairman of the Women Liberal Democrats group, said the motion was "a pre-emptive strike". The move follows reports that ministers have considered bringing in an £3 prescription fee. Amanda Taylor of South Cambridgeshire said: "This amounts to a tax on sex and on sexual responsibility."

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**FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW**

The President said it was essential that parliament passed the 1998 federal budget and new tax code, calling both key conditions for economic recovery. The likelihood of this happening seems at this stage remote. Political leaders in the State Duma, the lower house of parliament, have stated their intention to block the budget and are highly critical

Prime Minister, predicted a surge in foreign investment. He, too, emphasised the importance of tax reform and success in the fight against corruption, and crime to help to bring this about.

□ **Religion law:** The Russian parliament's upper house passed unanimously yesterday a controversial draft law on religions. Although revised, the West still criticises the legislation as discriminatory. (Reuters)



One of the many artists who ply their trade on Montmartre hill in Paris

FROM BEN MACINTYRE  
IN PARTS

Jean Tiberi, the Paris Mayor, defended the move by saying that "Montmartre will recover its tranquillity".

**FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME**

"We want to see how shopkeepers and bus drivers as well as their customers react to making transactions in the euro", Signor Pesci said. Similar experiments in France and Germany have not been received with enthusiasm. But although the lira is seen as weak compared with the franc or the mark, Italy is desperate to join the single currency from the outset.

Signor Pesci said people in Fiesole and Pontassieve would be able to "buy bread and salami, go to the cinema and take a bus ride" from October until March 1998 using the euro. The Florentine coins and notes resemble those approved by Brussels but bear local symbols and civic crests. **□ Bonn:** A draft law amending Germany's corporate law and financial regulations to allow introduction of the euro was approved by the Cabinet. The measure must now be put to parliament. (AP)



Nairobi: America and South Africa should reconsider aid to Rwanda's Tutsi-led army because it has been involved in the deaths of some 6,000 people since January, Amnesty International claimed yesterday.

Most of the victims were unarmed civilians who died at the hands of the Rwandan Patriotic Army or Hutu rebels, the London-based human rights watchdog said.

Amnesty said it based the figure of 6,000 deaths on reports from six witnesses and the families of victims, some of whom are in exile. The US gives military assistance to Rwanda. South Africa has been the country's main weapons supplier. (AP)

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**BY MICHAEL BINYON**  
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

In Kuching, capital of the Malaysian state of Sarawak

## Kuching in the Malaysia

state of Sarawak is shrouded

by fire pollution at night

towel was probably more effective.



**By ROSEMARY RIGHTER**

Even for the fit, the haze pollution index needs to reach no higher than the 100-range

As the flight from London approached Singapore last week, the pilot announced that visibility was adequate for landing. The unexplained announcement seemed odd at the time, for mid-afternoon in the dry season. Stepping from the airport into the semi-darkness, my first reaction was to think that I must have set my watch wrongly; it was clearly much later than I had

in Singapore criticism of neighbouring Asian countries is discouraged. But Indonesia's failure, year after year, to control the forest fires is breaking down the customary restraints. With Indonesia gripped by drought, these fires could not only be the worst ever but also the most durable. Foreigners can be evacuated, but South-East Asians are in for a suffocating season.

**The Hague:** Workers created a 188-piece jigsaw puzzle when they dropped a *Hypacrosaurus* skeleton. It had taken two years to glue together the 75 million-year-old, duck-billed dinosaur's bones. (AP)



**FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS**

The call for all FIS guerrillas to lay down their arms as of October 1 came the day after terrorists, believed to be operating on orders from the GIA leadership, murdered up to 200 civilians in an Algiers suburb.

The AIS called on others to join the ceasefire in order to "unmask the enemy hiding behind these abominable massacres" and so isolate "the

The extensive coverage given to the proposed ceasefire by Algerian state radio and television yesterday was a clear indication of official backing.

The latest atrocities took place in Benouni-Benthah on the outskirts of Algiers, once an FIS stronghold, indicating that the five-day battle to overthrow the Government is developing into a bloody free fight between wings of the insurgency movement.

## Food for thought



## Battle over suspension

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# ANC fears to grasp Mrs Mandela nettle

FROM R.W. JOHNSON IN JOHANNESBURG

THE appearance of Winnie Madikizela-Mandela before South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission is hardly likely to be the last carried out by her infamous "football club". Her wayward personality and the fact that the commission is more a theatre than a court guarantee that. But the fallout from this latest drama seems likely to be more immediate and far-reaching.

Mrs Mandela is an albatross round her party's neck and the resurfacing of the many scandals surrounding her is deeply unwelcome to the ANC shortly before a conference which will see President Mandela hand over party leadership to Thabo Mbeki.

The party's response has been to go into denial mode, but since it tends to do this quite instinctively in the face of any embarrassment its credibility is not high.

Mrs Mandela's candidacy for the ANC deputy presidency has raised the stakes enormously, particularly since the holder is certain to become South Africa's Deputy President. The preferred ANC way of choosing officials is to have one nomination for each post selected by a cabal. But now that Mrs Mandela's hat is in the ring, so are at least three others and the party faces a battle in which she is seen by many as the front runner. The prospect that she could run well, or even win, is enough to panic the party managers, not just because of the disastrous effect this would have on important sections of domestic and international opinion, but because her track record suggests that a lot more trouble would follow.

But Mrs Mandela's candidacy also opens a number of other fissures within the ANC. She has broadly hinted that "moderate ANC leaders" were involved in the assassination of Chris Hani, the charismatic Communist Party leader. There is much nostalgia for Hani, and if Mr Mbeki blocks Mrs Mandela such accusations could be renewed. Similarly, the ANC has run into strong opposition from its partners in the Communist Party and trade unions over its free-market policies, especially since those partners are now demanding that South Africa renounce its foreign debts.

Mr Mbeki and the Government are not in a comfortable position as they defend the rights of foreign banks to be repaid and Mrs Mandela's left-wing populism will hardly make that task easier.

Moreover, the peace talks in KwaZulu-Natal are becalmed and there is a desperate need for the ANC and Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party to make a deal before the onset of the electoral hurly-burly sees the situation slip back into the violent competition which has already cost 14,000 lives. Mrs Mandela's presence in the ring will make such a deal harder: anyone who truckies with Chief Buthelezi is all too easily labelled a sell-out. Her lawyers have been playing for time, trying to put the commission hearing back as far as possible so that it is pushed hard up against the ANC conference in December.

If that were to happen, it will become impossible to separate the two events. One important point is that the hearing is going ahead as early as it is — and in camera to prevent Mrs Mandela from grandstanding too publicly. But there will be nothing to stop her from repeating in public whatever she says if she feels the need.

The chances of the ANC grasping the Winnie nettle look poor. Cyril Ramaphosa tried to do that and he has had to abandon political life entirely. Yet no one doubts that it would be far easier to deal with the problem once and for all while Mr Mandela, with his great moral authority, is at the helm. Once he is gone and she is the only bearer of the Mandela name in the political ring, it could become virtually impossible.



President Mandela speaking yesterday, National Heritage Day, at Robben Island where he was imprisoned. The background mural shows him and other black leaders in South Africa, Steve Biko and Robert Sobukwe

## Woman blames beating-up on sexual jealousy

FROM SAM KILEY IN JOHANNESBURG

NEATLY folded and tucked into a part of a closet where it cannot contaminate the rest of her clothes, Phumzile Dlamini keeps a maternity dress stained with blood from injuries she says were caused by Winnie Mandela in a rage of sexual jealousy.

Three months pregnant by Mrs Mandela's driver, Shakes Tao, Mrs Dlamini says she was kidnapped by the South African President's former wife who, she alleges, smashed fists into her face and tore at her hair before handing her on to the notorious Mandela United Football Club. "See what you can do with her," Mrs Mandela allegedly told her teenage thugs.

Shaking with fear and sobbing, Mrs Dlamini recalled the night which she blames for the brain damage suffered by her son while he was in the womb eight years ago, with chilling clarity. Mrs Mandela is due to face accusations of 18 counts of gross human rights abuses, including eight murders, at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission on Friday. Her lawyers said this week that they would ask for a postponement to "complete interviews with witnesses". That is why Miss Dlamini was shaking in terror. Mrs Mandela's palatial house in Soweto's Orlando West still casts a shadow of fear across the tiny bungalows of the township she terrorised during the 1980s.

"Yesterday I was warned by a friend that anyone who is expected to testify against Winnie will be killed. I want to tell the commission what happened to me, but I am afraid. I need protection."

Mrs Dlamini said. Mrs Mandelawas convicted of kidnapping and assault at a murder trial for Stompie Seipei in 1991 and sentenced to six years, which was later commuted to a fine.

Shocking new evidence in the Stompie case is expected to come out when one of Mrs Mandela's former henchmen, Katiza Cebekhulu, testifies to the commission. In sworn affidavits he has already said that he twice saw Mrs Mandela plunge a sharp object into the 14-year-old activist whose corpse was found dumped in waste ground. Jerry Richardson, the "football team's coach" was convicted of the 1987 murder, and is serving a life term. He has said in his application for amnesty to the commission that he was acting on Mrs Mandela's orders. Mrs Dlamini's story reveals frightening details about the woman who announced she would run for deputy president of the ANC. At 19, when she allegedly fell foul of Mrs Mandela, Mrs Dlamini had never been in trouble. Then she fell in love with Shakes, and became pregnant. Unfortunately, she says, she did not realise that Mrs Mandela's legendary sexual appetite had included Shakes.

"She came to my house and asked if I was in love with Shakes. I said no. She said I was making a fool of her and started beating me. She left me, but came back later that day, in the evening. She was screaming, swearing at me, her eyes were huge and she seemed to be having a sort of fit. She forced me back into her car and that's when she started really beating me up," Mrs Dlamini said.



**I was warned any one expected to testify against Winnie will be killed**

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# Clinton aide says US must extend stay in Bosnia

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton's National Security Adviser, setting the stage for a protracted political battle with Congress, has signalled that America must be ready to keep troops in Bosnia-Herzegovina well beyond the scheduled withdrawal of Nato forces in June.

Samuel Berger, in a clear effort to prepare America for the apparently inevitable continuation of an American military presence, said the West must remain engaged in Bosnia both to preserve peace in the Balkans and the credibility of the Nato alliance.

"Peace is beginning to take root," he said, "but the gains are not irreversible, and locking them in will require that the international community stay engaged in Bosnia in some fashion for a good while to come."

Mr Berger, in a speech at Georgetown University, made no explicit commitment that Americans would remain in the Balkans beyond the June deadline, but officials at the White House portrayed his words as a deliberate signal of intent to both opponents in Capitol Hill and anxious allies in Whitehall, Paris and Bonn.

The Foreign Office and officials from other allied governments have for some time been urging the White House

to clarify its position over Bosnia. Britain and other European countries have long maintained that their troops will not remain in the Balkans without a continued American military presence. Last night Hubert Verdrine, the French Foreign Minister, said in New York that the Nato-led peace-keeping force should prepare for a longer stay to finish the job undertaken in the Dayton peace accords.

The Berger announcement came after much debate over the issue among the various government departments in Washington. Even the Pentagon has been forced to recognise that withdrawal before June would almost certainly lead to renewed conflict in the region.

The speech was also timed to blunt increasing criticism of the Administration's foreign policy by Republicans in Congress and notable outsiders, including Henry Kissinger, the former Secretary of State.

In an article widely published in American newspapers this week, Dr Kissinger offered a scathing assessment of Mr Clinton's Bosnia policy, suggesting that Washington risked drifting into a crisis because America's goals and strategy in the region were poorly defined.

While Dr Kissinger attacked the tenets of the Dayton accord and the creation of a multi-ethnic state, Republicans have hardened their stance towards troop deployment in Bosnia.

In 1995, Mr Clinton promised that the original US Implementation Force of 20,000 would be deployed to the region for a year. The week after his re-election last year, the President announced his widely anticipated decision to participate in the successor force which included about 8,000 American troops.

Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, a Texas Republican, predicted a vigorous fight in Congress to block any further commitment of American soldiers. "We are not looking at Somalia," she said, "we're looking at Vietnam. They don't have a clear exit strategy."

The Stabilisation Force (Sfor) mission has been complicated by numerous factors, including the continuing power of hardline Serbian nationalists in eastern Bosnia under the direction of Radovan Karadzic, the former political leader indicted for war crimes.

Only a small number of refugees have been allowed to return home, and there has been muted progress in merging Serb-controlled areas with those of the Muslim-Croat Federation.

Mr Berger said that life was improving, genuinely if slowly, for most in the federation. "I am making the case — I wouldn't say open-ended — for engagement in Bosnia at least in terms of civilian implementation for as long as it is succeeding in moving forward."

□ Belgrade: President Plavsic of the Bosnian Serbs' Republika Srpska has settled a dispute with her rival, the hardliner Momcilo Krajisnik, and both have agreed to implement the Dayton peace agreement, Tanjug news agency reported. (AFP)



Berger: feels peace is beginning to take root

## Irish rock band unites Bosnians

FROM TOM WALKER IN SARAJEVO

BONO, lead singer with the rock band U2, departed Sarajevo cloaked in the mantle of peacemaker yesterday, after a concert that crossed Bosnia's ethnic divide and left diplomats singing his praises.

Before climbing into a private jet bound for Greece and the next leg of the band's tour, the Irishman said he hoped the Sarajevo concert, which brought 50,000 fans from all over the former Yugoslavia, was a "small step" on the road to uniting Bosnia.

"There were 1,000 people from Republika Srpska there and they didn't have Kalashnikovs but U2 tickets in their hands," said the singer, wearing wrap-around pink-tinted sunglasses and a leather baseball cap. "It was an extraordinary night."

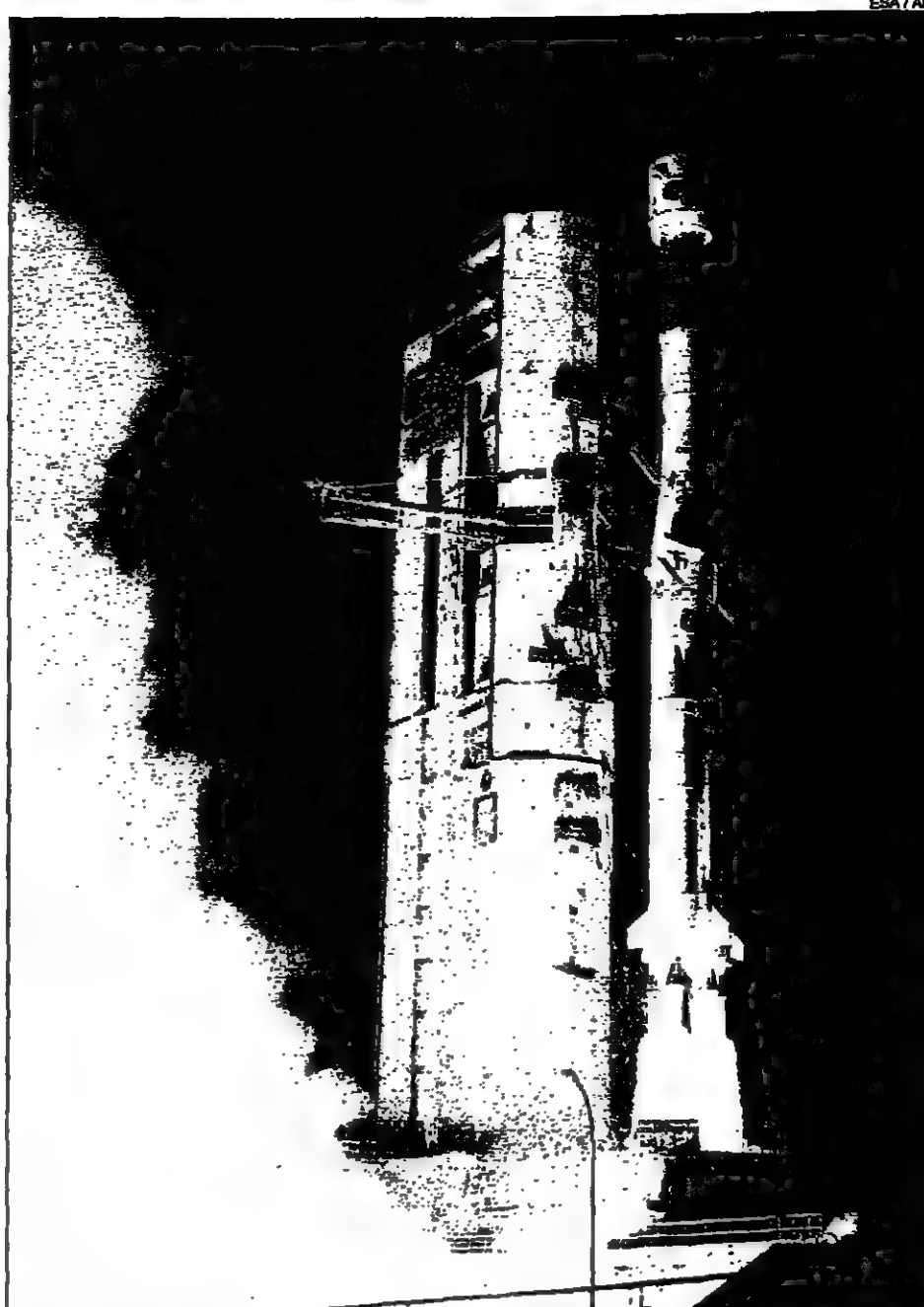
After hugging locals, Bono was whisked away. He was followed shortly afterwards by his guitarist, The Edge, who described the band's

meeting with President Izetbegovic as "fantastic. He was a real gentleman".

Duncan Bullivant, spokesman for the Office of the High Representative, said U2 had shown that the boundary separating Muslims and Croats from Republika Srpska was there to be breached. "It was a good example that there is hope for this country," he said.

Alex Ivanko, the United Nations spokesman, said U2 had exposed the "absolute baloney" of the nationalist rhetoric dividing Bosnia. "People can have a good time no matter what nationality they are."

However, U2 fans in Pale, which is just 20 minutes up the road from Sarajevo and is the stronghold of Radovan Karadzic, the hardline Bosnian Serb leader, were prevented from buying tickets by their leadership, who told them the journey was unsafe.



The 100th European Ariane rocket, carrying a telecommunications satellite, lifts off from French Guiana on Tuesday night almost 18 years after the first Ariane launch

## Elton John tribute breaks US records

BY TOM RHODES

ELTON JOHN'S tribute to Diana, Princess of Wales, has broken all records in the United States, where shops throughout the country said the song had sold out within hours of its release.

The Recording Industry Association of America yesterday certified that *Candle in the Wind 1997* had achieved "eight times platinum", a record eight-million initial shipment for a single.

When it was released in Britain last week, the song sold 650,000 copies in one day, to become the fastest-selling single of all time.

In America, its arrival appeared to bring something of an end to the extraordinary period of mourning that drew many to a princess they rarely followed in life.

At Tower Records in Washington, devotees grabbed multiple copies. "I've been here five years, and this is the first time I've seen so many people buying multiple copies of a record, especially a single," said Tommi Baker, an assistant manager. Most customers said they were buying it because the proceeds were being given to the Princess's charities.

The marketing of the Princess has gathered momentum. Mail order advertisements have appeared in almost all American papers, offering commemorative objects.

Photograph, page 24

## Treasury scraps smudged \$50 bills

Washington: The US Treasury has been forced to delay the debut of its state-of-the-art \$50 bill after printing 7.8 billion (\$4.8 billion) of such poor quality that the notes appeared counterfeit (Tom Rhodes writes).

Smudging of Ulysses Grant's portrait and of micro-printed security details in his collar left the work below the standards demanded by the Federal Reserve for a first-run. Reprinting the poor notes, which officials at the Federal Reserve admitted could be mistaken for fakes, may cost as much as \$11 million.

The smudged bills made up more than 15 per cent of an order for nearly one billion \$50 notes which were due to go into circulation between now and early 1998.

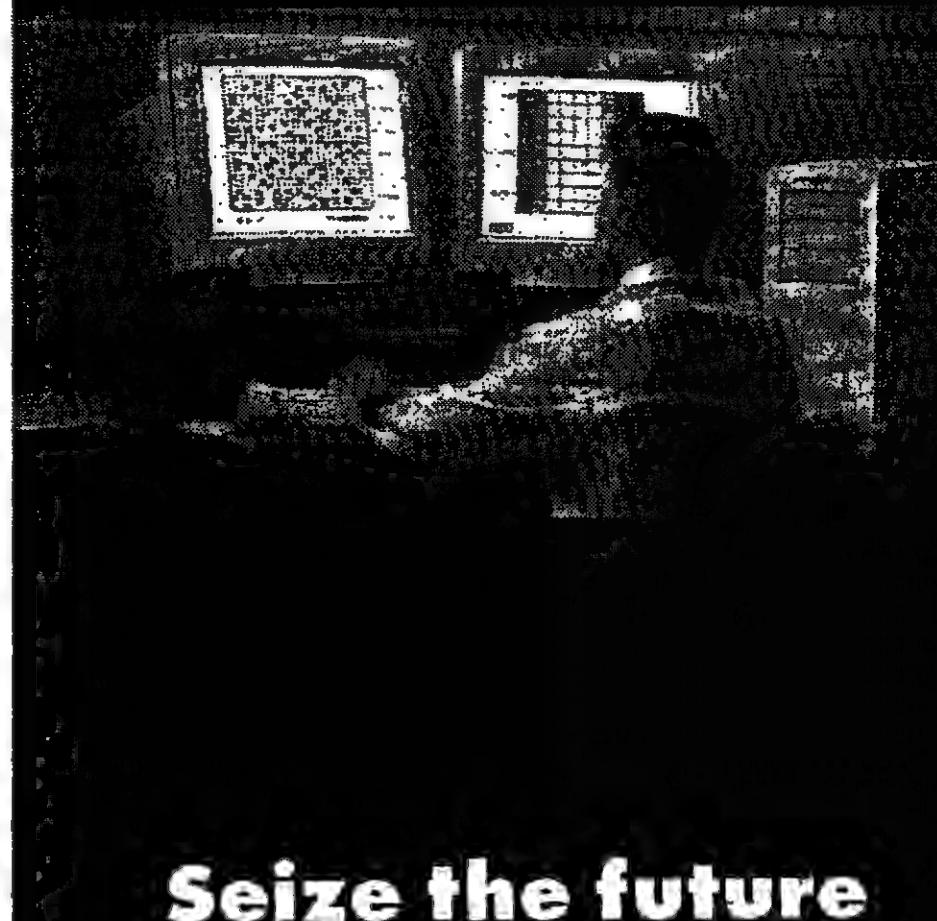
The problem was not detected until the Bureau of Engraving and Printing had dispatched large shipments of the money from Washington, and attempted to make the Reserve accept the defective currency regardless.

As a result circulation has been postponed until the middle of next month at the earliest.

"We have said we expect to get new notes to the Fed by the fall of this year and we will meet that deliverable date," said Larry Felix, a spokesman who conceded that the bureau had not encountered difficulties with smudging in the past.

"We've decided that notes of the absolute highest quality will be the first to go out."

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# Depression, drugs and libido

**Dr Thomas Stuttford on controlling depression; why Thalidomide is still prescribed; cerebral tumours and changes in behaviour; genes for jeans day and the risk of breast cancer**

Although only 35, William is so successful as a sales director that he already controls his company sales for a large slice of the world.

Colleagues and opposition alike would find it hard to reconcile the image he presents at company meetings with the story he told in the doctor's surgery.

Despite an outward show of optimism, essential to the maintenance of the morale of his sales force, William told me that he'd always been a secret pessimist, just like his mother and many of her family. On questioning William, he admitted, rather reluctantly, to all the stock symptoms of depression.

Depression is not so much a specific disease as a syndrome, a collection of signs and symptoms that are, for convenience, lumped together and described as affective disorders. In the affective disorders there is an alteration of mood, the patient's approach to life may be either unreasonably lacklustre and despairing, or absurdly over-enthusiastic. Some people alternate between the two conditions.

Despite his efforts to conceal it, William had a level of despondency that was way beyond just feeling unhappy. He had gone off his food, lost nearly a stone in weight and had feelings of absolute hopelessness about all aspects of life both domestic and professional. William was sleeping badly, getting off to sleep and then waking up, and frequently after several hours of fitful dozing he would slumber again just when it was time to get up. William's mood varied according to the time of day, and life usually seemed to be a little bit more hopeful from lunchtime onwards.

William was irritable and this was enhanced by a conviction he had recently that his colleagues "had got it in for him". Although William had



not been married for very long, his sex life had petered out once he had become depressed, from a lack of interest rather than ability.

William, like 70 per cent of depressed patients, soon responded to treatment with SSRI, selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitor, also known as SHT re-uptake inhibitors. His improvement started within a fortnight. After the first week of treatment his almost suicidal feelings of hopelessness had lessened and by the second week he was less irritable, paranoid, edgy and anxious. William continued his treatment for six months and the only side effect that worried him was that although he was enjoying all aspects of life again, he was still blind to the charms of his wife and other women. "It is not only that I feel an absolute fool in the bedroom, parties, too, have become a bore."

William had swapped the loss of libido caused by depression, for that which was the effect of treatment.

About a year after William stopped his treatment the symptoms of depression returned, as in 80 per cent of patients William's depression is recurrent. In about 15 per cent of patients their despondent mood is persistent without treatment. William's

doctor's problem was to find a pill that would enable his patient to remain cheerful, but one which would allow him to enjoy a sex life.

In William's case Seroxat paroxetine was the treatment of choice. Most SSRIs will cause sexual dysfunction in a fifth of patients, in both sexes there may be reduced libido, with men a loss of potency and with women in lubrication. If potency is preserved some men will experience pain on ejaculation and in both sexes orgasm may be delayed. For the 80 per cent of patients having treatment with SSRIs, their libido improves as their joie de vivre returns. Seroxat causes less loss of libido than other SSRIs. This week a new antidepressant, Zispin, mirtazapine, has been introduced. Organon, the manufacturers, not only claim it is more successful and faster in the treatment of depression than the brand leader Prozac, but that it neither numbs the patient's sexual desires nor alters the nature of any amatory response.

Zispin is different from the SSRIs and is classified as a NaSSA, a noradrenergic specific serotonergic antidepressant. Zispin increases the level of both noradrenalin and serotonin, the two transmitters involved in depression.

A review of the safety of Zispin by Professor Stuart Montgomery, of St Mary's Hospital, London, shows that a significantly lower percentage of patients complained of adverse effects in taking a new drug than they did when taking either a placebo, or one of the earlier antidepressants. A striking feature of these figures was the large number of patients who suffered side-effects when taking an inert placebo.

Many drugs, including those that affect the psyche, may also occasionally reduce



Northern Ireland Secretary Mo Mowlam's forthrightness has won many fans, but some ask whether her tumour affected her personality

NORTHERN Ireland Secretary Mo Mowlam's personality, always loved by her colleagues in the Labour Party, is now being appreciated by a larger nationwide audience. Those who have known her have always admired her outspoken North Country approach to problems, her flair and apparent indifference to the niceties of metropolitan drawing-room conversation.

When Ms Mowlam was diagnosed as suffering from

## Tumour that can create a different person

a cerebral tumour there was inevitably discussion as to what extent her forthright approach had been a sign of what was presumably a slow-growing cerebral tumour and possibly a resultant raised intracranial pressure. Some journalists claim to have noticed an increasing intolerance of others' indolence or prejudice. The signs and symptoms

caused by cerebral tumours are either the result of the tumour pressing on the brain, or because the growth has increased intracranial pressure. Morning headaches, which tend to clear later in the day, and vomiting, are frequent early symptoms, as are seizures.

Psychological symptoms are more difficult to assess but are the first symptom in

about one quarter of all cerebral tumours. These include changes in personality, increasing irritability, drowsiness or simple bloody-mindedness. In one recent case I was involved in, the man's tumour had produced a personality change he is kinder, more romantic and, as one member of his family said, "nicer in every way."

Any evidence of a resur-

gence of the old Mowlam spirit, will once again excite comment and raise questions as to what extent her medical condition and, perhaps more importantly, any treatment will influence her judgment and interpersonal skills.

Although some drugs or cerebral tumours may completely change a patient's character, in a great many other cases the doctor's prescription, or the disease, tend only to enhance existing personality traits.

## When Thalidomide can help, not harm

America did not suffer a Thalidomide disaster as badly as Britain and the rest of Europe. Even in mainland Europe, the Thalidomide used was unstable and did not universally produce deformities in the babies of mothers who took it in early pregnancy. This instability was detected by British scientists and Thalidomide's release to the public was held up, which was fortuitous as it enabled Doriden, a drug closely related to Thalidomide, to seize a greater part of the market for a mild hypnotic "suitable to treat the insomnia of pregnancy". Doriden did not cause foetal abnormalities.

British pharmacologists succeeded where their European colleagues had failed, and produced a stable form of Thalidomide. This had an unfortunate downside, for although, thanks to Doriden, fewer women in Britain took Thalidomide, those who did take it in early pregnancy all had abnormal babies.

The extreme anxiety voiced by the American public about the use of Thalidomide to treat other diseases is perhaps because, with less experience of the drug, they have an even greater horror of its side-effects than we do.

In this country, doctors have continued to prescribe Thalidomide for some forms of chronic leprosy, in particular the type 2 reaction erythema nodosum leprosum. Contrary to popular belief, leprosy is not very infectious and even those constantly exposed to the bacillus do not usually become

infected. The type 2 chronic reactions may occur for up to ten years after apparently successful treatment and are characterised by red, oozing lumps on the skin. At this stage of the disease the patient may also notice joint pains, particularly in the knees; inflammation of the nerves; kidney disease and, in men, inflamed testes. Less well documented than its use in treating leprosy has been Thalidomide's value in countering

midle was given with other immuno-suppressant drugs. The two well-known side-effects of Thalidomide, drowsiness and peripheral neuropathy — damage to the nerves and limbs — were not a serious problem.

As well as helping bone-marrow transplant patients, Thalidomide has also been used against other immunological disorders such as lupus erythematosus, and certain inflammatory conditions.

Professor Powles's work at the Royal Marsden has confirmed studies that showed that although Thalidomide is effective in many cases of chronic graft-versus-host disease, it is of no value in the acute form. British doctors are in no way casual about the use of Thalidomide. Great care is taken to see that it is not used wantonly and left lying about in bathroom cupboards where it might be taken unwittingly by a pregnant woman. The indications for the use of Thalidomide are very restricted, and it is only used when other drugs would be ineffective. Patients are always told what they are taking and what the implications are, and are warned to be careful about storage of the drug.

First reports on the use of Thalidomide in treating graft-versus-host disease appeared in *The Lancet* in 1988. Two years ago, in *Drug Safety*, there was a strong appeal for its use to be extended to other immunological disorders. So far there have been no reports of it being taken mistakenly by a pregnant woman.

**'It is still prescribed for some forms of chronic leprosy'**

graft-versus-host disease. After transplantation, particularly of bone marrow in cancer therapy, Thalidomide has proved useful in reducing this chronic form of rejection.

Professor Ray Powles and his team at the Royal Marsden Hospital in Surrey have been researching the use of Thalidomide in cases of graft-versus-host disease for some years. They have found that Thalidomide is well tolerated by patients with a chronic form of the disease, and can be very effective. The Thalido-

THE understanding of genetic medicine increases daily. People are worried, however, about a service which will enable someone to open their morning post, rise from the breakfast table and carry out tests to find out which genetic disease they are likely to suffer from. The Government has issued a code which determines the conditions under which a company may offer diagnostic service through the post.

The diagnosis of genetic disorders is only one factor in its control. It would be far better to find means to prevent the diseases, or, failing

## Jeans raise cash for genes

that, to cure them. The Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, which inevitably sees large numbers of children with genetic disorders, is launching a "Jeans for Genes" Day.

This is a national fund-raising appeal, on Friday, October 10, when the population of the UK has been asked to leave their skirts, dresses or trousers at home and instead wear a pair of jeans to work. They are also asked to give a

pound towards research into genetic diseases at the hospital.

It will divide the money between general research at the hospital and the Primary Immunodeficiency Association, which investigates the problems of children born with little resistance to infection. Two other organisations to benefit from "Jeans for Genes Day" are the Society for Mucopolysaccharide Diseases and the Chronic Granulomatous Disorder Research Trust, which investigates the condition in which a child's body reacts abnormally to bacterial infection.



Wear denim to work and give to Jeans for Genes Day

## Pregnancy and the risk of breast cancer

THE death from breast cancer of the *Observer* writer Ruth Picardie, at 33, has caused great sadness in what used to be known as Fleet Street. It appears that before her cancer was diagnosed she had suffered from fibro-adenomas, known to doctors as benign mammary dysplasia and to the public as "lumpy bosoms".

In such cases — where someone diagnosed with benign mammary dysplasia then develops a cancer — it is always open to doubt whether the initial trouble was misdiagnosed, or whether it is another nearby lump that is malignant. Research has shown that problems with

diagnosis account for most of the increased mortality from breast cancer in patients with lumpy breasts; but there is sound evidence that these women do have a small but significant increase in the incidence of breast cancer.

It seems Ms Picardie always worried whether the hormones used in IVF treatment could have accelerated the cancer. This is unlikely, but both pregnancy and breastfeeding may increase the levels of a hormone which could stimulate the tumour. It has however been suggested recently that the overall effect of pregnancy on breast cancer may not be great as was once thought.

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# Britain's removal van democracy

Don't pack up first-past-the-post, says Michael Pinto-Duschinsky

To grasp the power of symbols, and pageants is to appreciate the essence of political life. This month's carpets of flowers for Diana, Princess of Wales, created a new and potent image of "people power". Yet the most important symbol of the sovereignty of the electors is the modest removal van.

It was on the morning of May 2, 1997, only hours after the polls had closed, that the removal vans arrived at 10 Downing Street to ferry away John and Norma Major's belongings. As his possessions were being taken out by a back door, the outgoing Prime Minister left by the front door to tender his resignation to the Queen. He announced that he would proceed as a private citizen from Buckingham Palace to watch a game of cricket at the Kennington Oval. He would also step down as Tory leader. An hour later, Labour supporters gathered in Downing Street to celebrate the Blair's arrival.

The spectacle of the expulsion of the Majors followed a time-honoured pattern. Lord Callaghan suffered the same fate, as did Wilson, Douglas-Horne, and even Churchill on the morning of the Second World War. So little prepared for defeat was Harold Wilson, that he had nowhere else to live and was obliged to camp out for several months in the home of Dick Crossman in Vincent Square.

Britain's "removal van democracy" has unusual virtues. First, it recognises that the election of MPs is a subsidiary function of national elections. The voters' central role is to elect or to dismiss governments and Prime Ministers. Second, what is really important is not to select a new government but to be able to oust an existing one. The defining characteristic of ballot box power is the citizens' ability to "throw the rascals out". It is the prospect of punishment at the next general election that provides the incentive for Prime Ministers to heed the public mood.

Third, the electoral system should make it possible for the voters to rid themselves of an unpopular government in a manner that is rapid and direct. The less obvious connection between voting and the fate of the government, the weaker the voters become and the poorer the operation of democracy.

There can be no doubt of new Labour's appeal now. But there may come a time when voters become as anxious to get rid of Tony Blair as they were last May to dismiss the Tories. If so, there may no longer be a role for the removal van.

If Britain abandons the first-past-the-post method of electing MPs to Westminster, then future general elections are likely to be followed by a period of negotiation between different potential coalitions. The wishes of the electors will matter less than the ability of the various party leaders to bargain about the distribution of Cabinet posts and other

perks. Provided an outgoing Prime Minister is able to reach the necessary inter-party agreements, he will be almost immune from popular wrath. Under PR, the sitting premier would have been able to remain in office after every general election since the Second World War — if he had obtained Liberal support.

Mr Blair has a reputation for scepticism about proportional representation for elections to the House of Commons. But the main effect of last week's referendum in Scotland will be to create the momentum for a change of the entire electoral system.

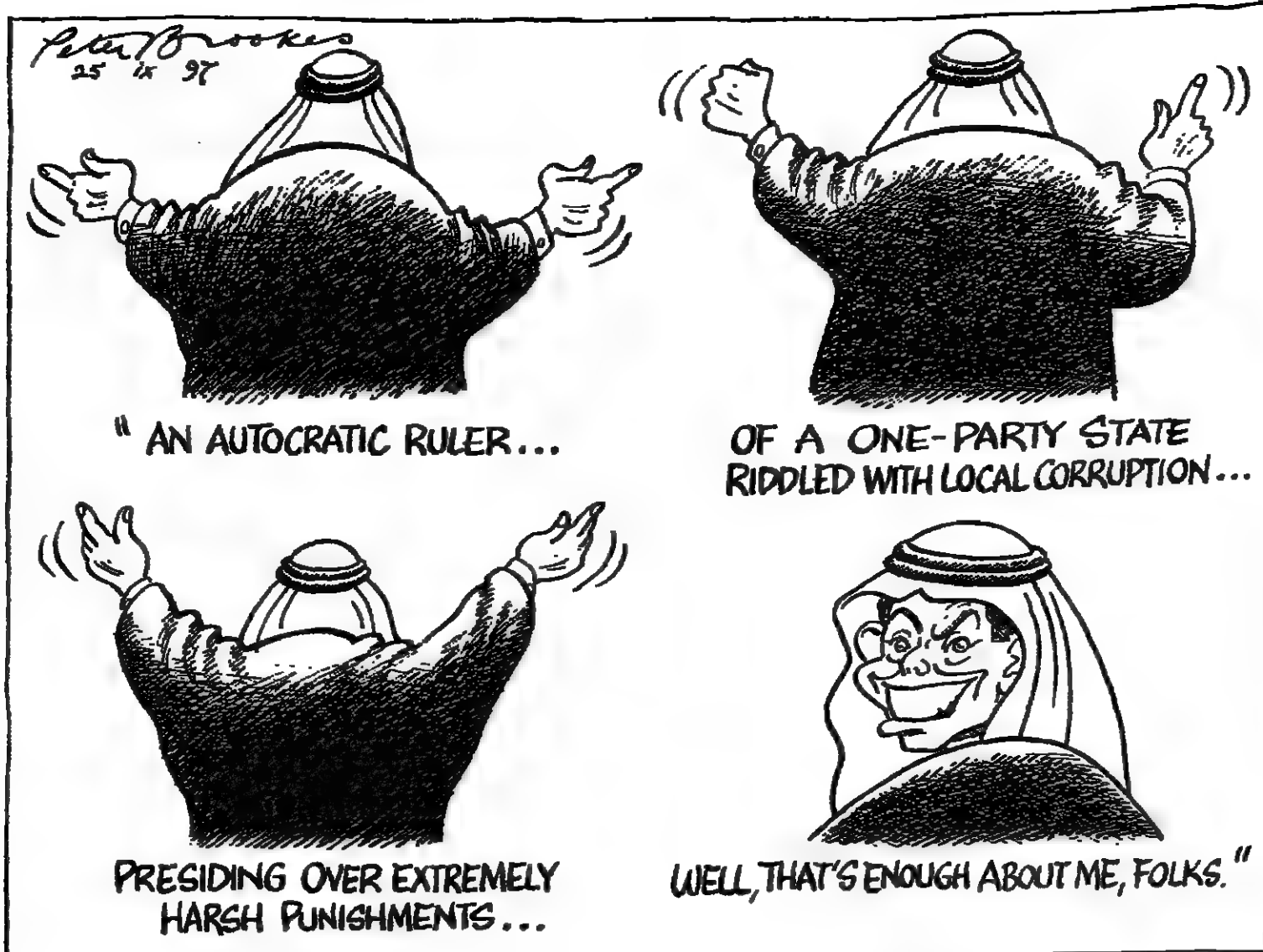
The real news about the creation of a parliament in Edinburgh does not concern its powers, or even that the decision to set it up was taken by the first of a whole series of referendums. The vital change is the fact that it will be elected by proportional representation. Though 73 members will be elected in single-member constituencies, the overall results will be determined by the allocation of 56 additional members, elected on the German model from party lists. This method of allocating the additional members means that the entire parliament will be formed on the basis of PR. For a Welsh assembly the electoral system is the same, but with 40 members elected in single-member constituencies and 20 additional members. Furthermore, the Government has committed itself to introducing PR for the European elections to be held in June 1999. These developments are bound to create the precedent for PR for Westminster elections.

The introduction of PR for European, Scottish and Welsh elections will lead to fundamental changes for the political parties. PR will involve lists of candidates in an order of preference set by the party hierarchies. This will lead to the further centralisation of party organisations. The legal status of parties will need to be embedded in public law.

Labour held negotiations with the Liberal Democrats before the election, after which it pledged itself to set up a committee to consider alternatives to the first-past-the-post system. A referendum would then be held within the lifetime of the parliament to decide between the existing system and the chosen method of PR. The joint Lib-Lab Cabinet sub-committee, set up to steer a programme of constitutional reform, will ensure that the issue of PR will be a central theme of the Liberal Democrat's campaign. At Eastbourne Liberal Democrat politicians are relishing the imminent prospect of PR, which would mean that instead of being permanently excluded from power, they might find themselves permanently in the majority.

Despite the manifest will of the British people for less power at the top, the reform process may have unintended side-effects. It will create more centralised, bureaucratic political parties. And it may take away the power of the people to oust the premier.

## Electing new governments matters less than ousting the old ones



# How to be a hollow man

With the new politics, it's better to have shone at Rada than the Oxford Union

Last weekend I was trying to reach my American newsletter co-editor James Davidson; I thought he was in Washington. But he turned out to be in New Zealand. Normally when this happens I get his answering machine, but this time the telephone was answered by his wife, Amy. It is one of the civilised aspects of Washington life that she has remained a White House correspondent in good standing, invited to the President's Christmas parties, despite the fact that her husband has been a leading critic of Whitewater and of the President's other Arkansas problems.

Amy Davidson is an excellent White House correspondent; in 1992 she told me, before anyone else did, that Bill Clinton was going to win the Democratic nomination and that he would probably go on to win the election. She had been travelling with the Clinton campaign, and had seen the way the crowds reached out towards the candidate. On Sunday, we were discussing the next American presidential race. She thinks that Bill Clinton has been so successful in the use of the new campaigning methods that no party could now afford to nominate anyone who did not possess similar skills.

That is bad news for Al Gore; he is not only in trouble because of Janet Reno's inquiry into campaign funds, but he has about as much "touchy-feely" campaign quality as a wooden cigar-store Indian. It is not much better news for the Republicans. People have been talking up George Bush Jr; he would start with \$30 million-worth of name recognition inherited from his father, but he is no Bill Clinton. Some people think Senator Fred Thompson is the nearest thing the Republicans have to a warm, modern campaigner.

New political skills are needed for the new politics. Politicians used to have to be debaters and orators. Few debates now happen in the United States; they matter much less than they did even in the House of Commons. Michael Howard is one of the most successful parliamentary debaters; that does him little good because he lacks charm on television. William Hague out-debated Tony Blair last July. Blair's one response to camera on the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, was worth any number of Hague's debating victories.

The formal art of oratory is dying. The last great orator to become Prime

Minister was Winston Churchill. Iain Macleod, Aneurin Bevan, Enoch Powell and Quentin Hogg were all genuine orators, but all four ended as political near-misses. In America, Ronald Reagan was a great communicator, and John F. Kennedy was a charismatic personality, but the last President to be a real orator was Franklin Roosevelt. There are too few great audiences nowadays; a great speech is too long, too cumbersome and often too aggressive to make good television.

The politics of image has largely replaced the politics of argument, both in the United States and in Britain. People do still judge their politicians ultimately by results; governments which fail can still be turned out. But unless the results are terrible, they judge largely by feeling, not by what they think of the politicians' policies. The impression a candidate creates depends on physical appearance, down to the choice of a man's tie or a woman's hairstyle, and on the use of trigger phrases, which need to have positive associations, as in consumer advertising. "New, modern, proud, happy, young, future, people, hope, love" are the right words for "new" politicians. In person they need to be warm, relaxed and sympathetic, like a good television presenter.

The new age has a post-cold war, post-Christian, post-paternalist culture, more feminine, more intuitive and much less rigorous than the one which preceded it. The values are those described by Richard Barrett, who founded the World Bank's Spiritual Unfoldment Society (a title which in itself tells one a good deal about the new politics).

According to a recent article by Joyvelin Dawes in *De Numine* — the Alister Hardy Society Newsletter — Barrett highlights "respect for all life, equality of all souls, importance of the common good, responsibility for the whole and unconditional love". These values are sometimes held uncritically; the new politics is genuine in its compassion, but it can suffer

both from a dumbing down and a softening up of political discourse.

Bill Clinton owes two election victories to his ability to manipulate the slogans and images of the new politics. Whatever the issue, he manages to associate himself with the public mood. His rather goofy expression is adjusted, whether for sympathetic grief, humility, relief, joy or whatever is required; his language is adjusted, he uses a few words, and those he does use in no way memorable. He expresses the sentiments one might find on a condolence card. He is not even a particularly good actor; he is a sentimentalist of genius, a Southern, honey-smoked, ham.

This technique has worked wonders for Bill Clinton; indeed it has worked so well that the American people do not mind that they perceive him as a phony, as "slick Willy". They do not think he tells the truth, they certainly do not think he is an admirable human being, but he is a 100 per cent on key as a presenter.

Tony Blair is another master of the modern mode. He, too, has perfect pitch, as one saw when he responded to the death of the Princess. But with him it seems genuine. The American people may suspect that Clinton has a hollow centre; the British people do not think that of Blair. They mostly see him as a very genuine person; they think that they would like him if they were to know him personally. That is probably right. I have met Tony Blair only occasionally, but I found him a likeable, open personality. For Blair as a politician this is another layer of strength, one that Bill Clinton lacks.

Both Clinton and Blair have relied on spin-doctors to manipulate public opinion for them. In television terms, the candidate is the presenter of the campaign; he is the public face, but the spin-doctor is at least the co-producer. Spin-doctors are not expected to be nice people. Just as Clinton is a less attractive personality than Blair, so his grey eminence, Dick Morris, is a less sympathetic

person than Peter Mandelson. But the spin-doctor has, in any case, to be a shadow personality for the candidate. The candidate has to be open, warm and innocent. That is what the public likes. But a successful campaign has to have elements of secrecy, coldness and ruthlessness. As the candidate cannot be seen in that light, the spin-doctor has to take on his burden of guilt, which may eventually destroy him.

A successful modern politician obviously needs to be a good television performer. Indeed, he or she needs to be better than most television personalities. The sweet television performers, such as Michael Aspel, are too smooth and gentle and would appear weak in a political role. The tough interviewers, like Jeremy Paxman, can be too aggressive, particularly for women viewers; he is gender negative rather than cuddly. The new politician needs to cultivate a manner which is friendly but firm, like Trevor McDonald in Britain, or Larry King on CNN. But he needs to have a more youthful image than either of them. No politician can live without at least his own thick slice of ham, but relating to the new politics requires much more than performing skill. There has to be a real understanding of the new culture. The Princess of Wales possessed that, though she always emphasised that she was a humanitarian and not a political figure. The difficulty about the new culture is that it is half real, and rather admirable and half bogus, and rather childish. One never knows, when exploring its literature, whether one will be reading about the transformation of consciousness, or about laylines at Glastonbury.

Poor William Hague has a long way to go. He will have to grin to camera like Bill Clinton, look as relaxed in shirt sleeves as Tony Blair, share spiritual unfoldment with the World Bank — something I do not believe Margaret Thatcher could have done — learn how to smile, meditate, laugh and cry to camera, and to sympathise with the touching mixture of love, anguish, sympathy and self-doubt which is the characteristic of his generation. He will have to become a "people person". He should really have spent his student life at Rada, rather than the Oxford Union; it would have had more practical value. New age; new politics; new Tories; new Hague.

That does not mean that we should turn a blind eye to what has happened to Miss McLaughlin and Miss Parry. Everything we have learnt about their case contradicts what we consider to be natural justice. We have seen no evidence, tested in court, that they are guilty or innocent. With no written code in Islamic religious law, an accused person can be held almost indefinitely in custody. There is no automatic right to an open hearing, no access to defence witnesses, and in some cases only prosecution witnesses can be heard. Everything stems from the suspect's confession, and in this case the two accused claim that their original confessions were induced under duress. We have been treated to the unedifying spectacle of their fate being determined by members of the dead woman's family.

All of this offends us. It is understandable that it should do so. If there is such thing as a universal standard of justice, then we, and not the Saudis, are on the right side of it. It would be a great mistake, however, if natural revision were to develop into a full-blown campaign against a whole nation and its system of justice. That would simply alienate its people and tie the hands of its Government. What matters now is not issuing public condemnations, but preventing a horrible punishment being meted out against two women who may be innocent.

The Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, having issued his public denunciation, should revert to reticence. From now on the pressure should be maintained firmly but discreetly. It seems clear that the Saudi Government is anxious to avoid a confrontation with the United Kingdom, and it should be in our interests to achieve the same end. In so doing we will help protect rather than imperil the lives of two British citizens.

JUST two days after his arrival in the capital already the new American Ambassador, Philip Lader, has shown that he is a man of cultural discernment. At the launch of a restaurant themed on the American sitcom, *Cheers*, one look at the scarlet baseball caps and Mayday Malone cocktails was enough. Before the waiters had time to offer him a chocolate-fudge brownie, he was out of the swing-doors and heading home to the Residence.

P.H.S

## Softly, softly in Saudi

Magnus Linklater says Cook should revert to reticence

Saving the two British nurses Lucille McLaughlin and Deborah Parry from possible execution and public flogging should be the combined objective of both Saudi and British Governments. Whether they can achieve it may no longer be entirely in their hands. Both are under enormous pressure from public opinion, whether in Saudi Arabia or in Britain.

Such has been the outcry over the gruesome prospect of a Western woman being subjected to 500 lashes in front of a Saudi crowd that quiet diplomacy no longer seems an option. Yet that is the only way in which the two accused women can, in the longer run, be extradited without the Saudi Government losing face in the eyes of its own citizens, or Britain endangering its trading relations with one of the world's wealthiest nations.

In some ways, the yawning gap between British and Saudi concepts of justice has narrowed scarcely at all since 1980, when the TV screening of *Death of a Princess* caused led to a four-month break in diplomatic relations. It may even have widened. We are more than ever outraged by what seems to us a medieval approach to punishment and a trial system, which is the opposite of open justice; we cannot understand why a country apparently anxious to improve links with the West should resist change when it comes to basic human rights. The fact that the liberally-inclined Saudi Arabian Ambassador in London should have condemned critics in Britain as "bleeding-heart liberals" shows how resistant the Saudis are to Western influence.

It can no longer be claimed that the Saudis are ignorant of the outside world. Since the Gulf War, Saudi Arabia has had growing access to television, and radio programmes from abroad, and there is a liberal strand of opinion in Saudi society which might not have existed a generation ago. But among most of its people, Islamic fundamentalism has been the greater influence. Opinion polls — were they to exist — would undoubtedly register Saudi approval of punishments which horrify the West.

Beheadings, public floggings and harsh prison conditions are considered appropriate sentences and the pillars of Islamic justice. Western pressure to reform them is seen as an attempt to subvert not just a penal but a religious code, and the Saudi Government is well aware of the strength of popular feeling on both.

There is some justification for the charge of double standards levelled against the West. Amnesty International, which has drawn up damning reports on crime and punishment in Saudi Arabia, has been just as harsh in criticising American states which still exercise the death penalty, and where condemned men linger for years on death row before facing execution. That same organisation has even criticised primitive conditions in some British prisons.

Newspapers which caricature the Saudi regime as punitive and autocratic have often commended countries such as Singapore for meting out stiff sentences — including flogging — to juvenile delinquents. They forget that fear of violent crime in Britain is such that a referendum to be carried out today, there might well be a resounding majority for restoring capital punishment.

That does not mean that we should turn a blind eye to what has happened to Miss McLaughlin and Miss Parry. Everything we have learnt about their case contradicts what we consider to be natural justice. We have seen no evidence, tested in court, that they are guilty or innocent. With no written code in Islamic religious law, an accused person can be held almost indefinitely in custody. There is no automatic right to an open hearing, no access to defence witnesses, and in some cases only prosecution witnesses can be heard. Everything stems from the suspect's confession, and in this case the two accused claim that their original confessions were induced under duress. We have been treated to the unedifying spectacle of their fate being determined by members of the dead woman's family.

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## Taxing times

DAVID DIMBLEBY is in dispute with the Inland Revenue over tax paid by his company. The taxman is considering whether the television presenter's firm should pay thousands of pounds.

The argument is over the Dimbleby Newspaper Group's habit of paying staff as freelancers, leaving them responsible for their own tax. It flared up after a freelance journalist at one of the group's newspapers, the *Richmond and Twickenham Times*, challenged a personal tax demand. He claimed he was working full-time in an office and with a desk, yet was being taxed as a freelance — meaning he had to account for this out of his wages of just £23.10 a day. The Revenue wrote back to say that it was investigating the tax status of Dimbleby's journalists.

The group, which has been passed down through the Dimbleby clan, covers eight local papers, published in South London. According to the NUJ, nine journalists are employed across the group on a salary of £5,775 a year.

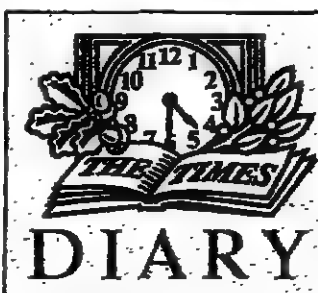
If the Revenue investigators judge that staff work for "one effective employer", the company

could be liable for years of back tax. Union toilers are growing very exercised.

The NUJ's Tim Goppsill says there is "poverty all around" Mr Dimbleby at his newspapers, and says the union has been lobbying to improve pay and working conditions. Sadly, the group's managing director, Harry Lorraine, thought it best not to comment.



"It's not aggression, it's constructive criticism"



DIARY

MIDDLEAGE has failed to diminish the adulation for the actress Faye Dunaway, who has developed a penchant for the London restaurant, the Bonny Brasserie. "She is the only West-erner who can eat lamb milt, our spiced dish," marvels the manager. "We've had all the godfathers in here — Pacino, De Niro and Brando — but none have got it down."

## Moor Myra

THOSE wishing to appraise the child murderer, Myra Hindley, will be cheered by a recent revelation by her nonagenarian champion, Lord Longford: he wants to write her biography.

"Myra deserves to be portrayed fairly," suggests Longford. "Every-one remembers her how she was

when she was arrested, but she's so different now — nothing like the Royal Academy portrait. But I won't approach any publishers until I have Myra's consent."

BEFORE her arrest, Anne Machon, girlfriend of the M15 squarer David Shaylor and herself a former agent, entertained herself on the flight into London with a book. Its title? *How to Gain American Citizenship*.

## Riff justice

IS the world of rock or of politics the poorer? Archie Kirkwood, Liberal MP, has disclosed how he almost became a pop star. His band, un-wisely named *The Gaylords* and featuring Norman "baster blood vessel" Baker, recently elected Member for Lewes, on vocals, has been called upon to perform every night at this year's conference.

Half of *The Gaylords* went on to form *The Average White Band*, which later found success in America. "I had the chance of staying on with them," said Kirkwood, guitar virtuoso. "But chose to go to pharmacy college instead."

## Fat chance

THE PROSPECT of jostling on



Brand: large as life

stage with the fat comedian Jo Brand was simply too much for Julie Christie, an actress of notably svelte proportions.

Both were due to appear at the Hackney Empire in London on Sunday night, in aid of *Mind*. The show, *Having a Funny Turn*, promised to "celebrate positive images of mental health" — Brand makes much of the fact that she was formerly a psychiatric nurse.

For Christie, however, there was little positive to celebrate about Brand's bulky frame. "She pulled out at the last minute," says a distraught charity dame. "It was awful — sales waned when people realised she wasn't appearing." Meanwhile, the actress is out of touch. "She's gone abroad," says a member of her circle. "I do



Christie: out of touch

not know where. It is personal."

JUST two days after his arrival in the capital already the new American Ambassador, Philip Lader, has shown that he is a man of cultural discernment. At the launch of a restaurant themed on the American sitcom, *Cheers*, one look at the scarlet baseball caps and Mayday Malone cocktails was enough. Before the waiters had time to offer him a chocolate-fudge brownie, he was out of the swing-doors and heading home to the Residence.

P.H.S





## CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

This is no moment for soundbite diplomacy

Robin Cook meets Prince Saud al-Faisal, the Saudi Foreign Minister, tomorrow in New York. The meeting has long been planned but will now inevitably be dominated by discussion of the harsh sentence handed down on Tuesday by a Saudi court on Lucille McLauchlan and the expected verdict on Deborah Parry, the other nurse accused of murder. It could be a difficult meeting. Mr Cook's intemperate remarks denouncing the sentence of 500 lashes as "wholly unacceptable in the modern world" may backfire, complicating the urgent diplomatic attempts to mitigate the sentence.

To the Western mind, flogging is a brutal punishment, particularly if it is carried out on a woman. But Mr Cook has invoked a moral yardstick that, by calling into question the sharia religious law in force in Saudi Arabia, makes it harder to appeal for clemency should that be the final resort.

As Ghazi al-Ghosaibi, the Saudi Ambassador to London, has insisted, the judgment is only the first step in a lengthy procedure. Under Islamic law, all capital cases are automatically referred to a higher court and can then go to the supreme justice council. Exceptional cases such as this may be personally reviewed by King Fahd. Neither the Ambassador nor the King can dictate the sentence or throw out a verdict deemed to be guided by God. But Mr al-Ghosaibi has stated categorically that neither nurse will be beheaded.

His confidence is based on the extraordinary sensitivity that has surrounded this case. The Saudis have had to steer a difficult course between the demands of Islamic law and domestic opinion and the certainty that execution or flogging would inflict lasting damage on relations with Britain. From the outset, therefore, the Saudis have handled the case with exceptional care. The initial interrogation of the two women appears to have been rough, with well-founded suspicion that the police used extreme intimidation to obtain confessions. Yet the women were given quick access to lawyers, who have played an unprecedented role in the proceedings. Visas have been granted to relatives of the nurses; the British Embassy has been kept informed.

Even if the judges have sifted the evidence meticulously, the most vexed aspect of this case is that it has not even been made

available to the defence lawyers, much less laid out in open court. Justice will not have been seen to be done. The defence lawyers hope that this will be remedied on appeal; if sharia is to command secular respect, their request must be met.

Another complication has been the public wrangling over the attempt to induce the brother of Yvonne Gilford to waive his right to insist on the nurses' execution. Islamic law allows for clemency provided the nearest male relation is satisfied — usually with the payment of "diya" or blood money. Acting through intermediaries, the Saudis put considerable pressure on Mr Gilford to agree to such a step. He, however, was adamant that the death penalty should be enforced. It now appears that he has relented — but at a price, according to the nurses' lawyers, of \$1.2 million, a sum far beyond their families' means. A Westerner's greed could yet deny the nurses the clemency that Saudi custom makes possible.

The House of Saud is extremely sensitive to suggestions that it deals with Westerners and Christians more leniently than with its own citizens and other foreigners. Dissident exiles taunt the royal family for their links with the West. Any initial verdict strikingly at odds with normal practice would be seized on by fundamentalists to bolster their accusations. The Saudis may therefore be counting on the initial publicity to demonstrate adherence to the sharia while hoping that a less public verdict by the appeals courts will moderate the sentence.

Angry denunciations of the Saudi judgment are counter-productive and only exacerbate a clash of cultures. Sharia law is not Western law, but is respected by Muslims and is gaining ground in the Middle East rather than waning. To denounce the verdict as unacceptable implies that unless Western norms should prevail, the judicial process is unjust. It also implies that Britain has the will and means to change the verdict — which it patently does not. Such talk can only harden opinion in Riyadh. Persuasion must be tried, but always with the understanding that tough words which gain ministers favourable British headlines may not help the accused. It is as important as it will be difficult to ensure an outcome that preserves the vital relationship between Britain and an important Arab ally.

## PURITY AND POWER

The strange dithering of Liberal England

This time six months ago, the Liberal Democrats' best hope was a close election result. Then Tony Blair might have had to rely upon them for help. Nobody believed that there was any chance of Paddy Ashdown's party wielding power without an accident of parliamentary arithmetic. Yet the Liberal Democrat leader, with four of his colleagues, is now sitting at the Cabinet table influencing the enactment of the party's most cherished aim: constitutional reform.

One might have thought that the party would be grateful to have been offered this opportunity by a Prime Minister with a 179-strong majority of his own. Already they have won a firm promise of proportional representation for the 1999 European elections, as well as for the Scottish and Welsh assemblies. They have devolution, for which they fought for a century. Soon they will have incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights and, a little later, a Freedom of Information Bill. The Liberal Democrats are at last a party of long-sought changes in the way this country is governed.

That some of them are unhappy with this result illustrates the party's divisions. Most of its activists are local councillors, some of them running multi-million pound budgets. Labour councillors are usually seen as the enemy, and even if the two parties work together in coalition, relations can be fractious. Labour in local government is largely unreformed — there is still a large cultural, social and ideological gulf between old Labour and the Lib Dems. But between new Labour and the Lib Dems there is very little difference. Menzies Campbell, Robert

Maclean and even Mr Ashdown could sit quite comfortably on the Commons benches alongside Mr Blair. The Prime Minister's views are barely distinguishable from those of Lord Jenkins of Hillhead. Though they would be reluctant to admit it, all these men are from the same broad tribe.

This is what Mr Ashdown was trying to convey to his activists yesterday. "I don't believe," he said, "that the only liberals in Britain are necessarily to be found in the Liberal Democrats... British politics is now entering one of its most fluid periods in this century." At last, he argued, 16 years after the new SDP promised to break the mould, it "is beginning to crack."

There are, of course, advantages to Mr Blair too in co-opting the Lib Dems into his "project". This tentative alliance allows him to tap into their expertise on the minutiae of constitutional issues, which they have been studying for far longer than Labour. For all Mr Ashdown's protestations, it may make the Lib Dems a more eloquent opposition in Parliament. But, most importantly, it is the first step in the Labour leader's attempt to reunite the centre-left forces in Britain.

If Liberal activists are unwilling to enter into that realignment, then they may as well lay to rest any ambition to change more than the site of their local pelican crossing. If they insist on remaining inward-looking, tribal and ideologically purist, they may just hold on to their grip on street-cleaning and school dinners. But nationally, voters are likely to treat them as they did the inward-looking, tribal and ideologically purist Labour Party of the 1980s.

## MAN ON THE MOON

However it first rose, it will always cast a spell for romantics

The Moon may have been made in less than a year. This post-creationist theory follows a long train of explanations of the genesis of Earth's lesser light that rules the night. Erasmus suggested that the Moon was made of green cheese. He may have been teasing. But, as our Science Editor reports today, the new explanation is that the Moon was created in a cosmological flash shorter than the time taken to mature a decent Dutch cheese.

Since man first saw the hidden side of Earth's Moon and landed on its surface, less than 30 years ago, it has emerged as one of the most peculiar bodies in the Solar System. For it is disproportionately too big and too lightweight for its place in the heavens. Its low density is caused by a shortage of iron. And its anaemia and other peculiarities have become questions to puzzle the cosmologists.

Science, though, is willing to speculate. The fission hypothesis suggests the Moon was thrown off a rapidly rotating young planet, in which Earth's iron had already settled into the core. Some say that the Moon "coagulated" from a disk of smaller bodies (planetesimals) captured into Earth's orbit. Others suggest that the wandering Moon was attracted into orbit intact. The data ob-

tained from the Apollo lunar programme is so anomalous that a modern Erasmus could joke that the only explanation is observational error: the Moon does not really exist.

The latest theory posits a giant collision. An exceptionally large planetesimal struck the Earth off-centre, vaporising much of its crust and mantle into a disk of debris swirling around the planet. This accreted into the Moon. Scientists from Colorado University have been simulating such a primal impact on computers, and today they publish their conclusions. Their models suggest that the body that hit the Earth was much bigger than previously supposed, at least three times the size of Mars. That the debris coalesced in less than a year. That for a while Earth may have had two moons.

The scientists are to be congratulated on their latest fascinating beam of moonshine. But the White Goddess of romance and myth, the controversially feminine principle receiving its light from the Sun, is too old a wonder to be explained away by computer simulation. The Moon is one of the few bodies familiar to everyone on Earth. And it will retain its nightly mystery even when man is sure how it got up there.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Pensions mis-selling: commissions vs salaries and fees

From the Chief Executive of Allied Dunbar Assurance

Sir, You declare that switching from commission to fees and salaries is the only way the public will regain its trust in the insurance industry (leading article, "Beyond shame", September 19). I think you are misguided.

The problems of pensions mis-selling were not caused by the way salesmen are paid. If they were, you would expect all the companies on the Economic Secretary to the Treasury's "naming and shaming" list to have paid their salesmen by commission. In fact, there is a fair mixture of commission and salary-based sales forces.

These problems were caused by, among other reasons, a failure of checking and monitoring systems throughout the industry — systems which have since been developed, significantly strengthened and rigorously monitored specifically to prevent similar problems from occurring in the future. The main effect of a ban on commission would be to deny vital financial advice to large numbers of people.

To do their job properly, financial advisers must carry out a great deal of costly research and consultation with each potential client in the early years before the client decides to buy, often at a time when the client may not be earning much income. Force people to pay fees of several hundred pounds up front without knowing if they want to

purchase a product and many, probably most, would choose not to bother. That being the case, how then would the Government meet its aim to encourage people to make their own financial provisions?

Commission charged to the product has the effect of spreading costs over many years, and therefore encourages the client to consult an adviser and think long-term — to the client's benefit. We ban commissions at our peril.

Yours faithfully,  
A. STEPHEN MELCHER,  
Chief Executive,  
Allied Dunbar Assurance plc,  
Allied Dunbar Centre,  
Swindon SN1 1EL,  
September 19.

From Mr Keith Douglas

Sir, I agree with the view expressed in your leader that pensions salesmen and independent financial advisers should be paid salaries or fees rather than commission.

Under a fee-based system the amounts charged by advisers would be more closely scrutinised for value for money. Handing over a cheque for £1,000 for advice is very different from having the same amount deducted from your first two or three years' investments. I don't believe that the majority of investors will accept fees at the levels required to replace existing commission-based incomes.

A fee-based system will require the

salesmen in the industry to adjust their income expectations to more reasonable levels, to the benefit of their customers. That is why the industry will not willingly abolish commission-based selling.

Yours faithfully,  
KEITH DOUGLAS,  
4 Thickwillow,  
Godmanchester,  
Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire.  
keithdouglas@compuserve.com  
September 19.

From Mr Philip Prior

Sir, May I suggest that the answer to the mis-selling problem is for the Government to ban the companies concerned from selling any more pension schemes until the matter is put right. I fancy that the effect would be instantaneous.

Yours sincerely,  
PHILIP PRIOR,  
135 Chalmers Street,  
Dunfermline, Fife,  
September 20.

From Mr David Crawford

Sir, All I read about is mis-selling of pensions. Was there no mis-buying?

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID CRAWFORD,  
Mill Bridge, Bell Busk,  
Skipton-in-Craven, North Yorkshire.  
September 19.

### Labour and Lib Dems

From Professor Earl Russell

Sir, Labour are now telling the Liberal Democrats we cannot pick and choose on which issues we co-operate with them. They say we cannot continue to co-operate on constitutional reform unless we change our policies on taxation and spending. They ask us for what we cannot give. We cannot give before the voters believing we are unable to offer effective remedies for some 80 per cent of the grievances they ask us to redress.

Before they burn their boats, Labour should ask ministers in the Lords whether, when the devolution Bill is before us, they wish to dispense with the co-operation we freely gave them on the Referendum Bill. Indeed, they should ask whether they have the power to stop us co-operating when we want to. Whether they like it or not, Labour must continue to co-operate with the Liberal Democrats on constitutional reform. Otherwise they will not get their business through the Upper House.

Yours sincerely,  
EARL RUSSELL,  
House of Lords,  
September 24.

From Mr Adrian Slade

Sir, Peter Mandelson's criticisms of Paddy Ashdown ("Pipe down Paddy, you need Labour", September 23) should not surprise Liberal Democrats but simply confirm that the consultative committee Mr Mandelson has helped to set up, in the name of pluralism and the new politics, is a heffalump trap lined with hidden conditions.

The Tories having emasculated themselves as an Opposition, why not buy off the Liberal Democrats with a voice in Cabinet on constitutional issues, on the understanding, of course, that they do not criticise the Government on other issues? When you have a large majority, you do not need to work with other parties, but it flatters them and can keep them quiet.

Charles Kennedy is right that there is a huge opportunity for the Liberal Democrats to become the effective, as well as constructive, opposition to Labour. Richard Holme is wrong to assume that Liberal Democrats who feel uncomfortable with the constitutional committee are against coalition when the election result, or voting system, dictates. But in this Parliament, with a Government majority of 178, it does not.

With or without Liberal Democrat involvement, the Labour Government can still do what it wants when it wants. Without meaningful opposition it undoubtedly will.

Yours faithfully,  
ADRIAN SLADE  
(President, Liberal Party, 1987-88),  
28 St Leonards Road, SW14,  
September 23.

### London rats

From Mr Andrew Butler

Sir, According to Kensington & Chelsea council, "rats are still sensitive to the poisons we use" (Body and mind, September 11).

If by "sensitive" the council means slow and agonising death as the poison causes massive internal haemorrhaging usually manifested by profuse bleeding from the eyes, then it is correct.

Perhaps, therefore, "sensitive" is not strong enough a word for the reaction rats have to poisons. "Insensitive" is certainly not strong enough a word for the actions of Kensington & Chelsea council.

Humane trapping and contraception programmes are just two of the alternative ways of dealing with this problem.

Yours sincerely,  
A. BUTLER  
(UK Representative, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals),  
PO Box 3169, London SW15 5ZG.

### Opposition view on London's future

From Mr Richard Ottaway, MP for Croydon South (Conservative)

Sir, Next May, following the precedents of Scotland and Wales, Londoners will be invited to participate in a referendum on the Government's proposals for a Greater London authority comprising a mayor and an assembly. Both proposals should be considered separately in a two-question referendum.

There are merits in the proposal for a directly elected mayor, which the Conservative Party supports. He or she will be a voice for London, a champion of Londoners and will have a mandate to promote London on the world and national stage.

There are, however, conflicting views as to whether or not a Greater London authority would have the same effectiveness. Londoners are already well represented by 32 London boroughs with a wealth of expertise and experience of local government.

Many believe that an additional layer of local government is unnecessary, bureaucratic and costly. It

will add nothing to the better government of London and will probably be a backward step. There will be conflict between the boroughs and the authority, between the assembly and the mayor. This will lead to indecisiveness and gridlock, to the detriment of Londoners.

Under the circumstances, the Conservative Party believes there should be two questions in the referendum: do Londoners want (i) a mayor (yes or no) and (ii) a Greater London assembly (yes or no)?

For varying reasons others may want an authority and not a mayor. Whatever their position, a true sounding of Londoners' feelings cannot be achieved by grouping these proposals together in a single question. There must be two separate questions where the merits of both proposals can be fully debated.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD OTTAWAY  
(Opposition Spokesman for London),  
House of Commons,  
September 22.

### Drink and health

From Mr Rodney Legg

Sir, Many of us are increasingly indebted to daily doses of Dr Tom Stuttaford. Seeing his name each morning reminds me to swallow a "blood-thinning" aspirin tablet.

His articles, including the extracts from his book on alcohol (September 13-17), letters, September 20) provide a welcome antidote to half a century of censure against life's little enjoyments. At last there is reassurance that moderate indulgences are not only good for us (physiologically as well as psychologically) but promise to be lifesaving.

As for the measure, it is hardly to be regretted that two to four glasses of claret a day, with meals, may well prove to be more effective than drinking just one.

Cheers to our greatest guru.

Yours sincerely,  
RODNEY LEGG,  
The National School,  
North Street, Wincanton, Somerset.

From Mr Eric Sjogren

Sir, Every time a claim is made that drink is good for you, practising alco-

holics around the world stand up and cheer. They have just been handed another argument to continue drinking and refuse help.

Dr Stuttaford takes care to point out that his recommendations refer to moderate drinkers. For every non-drinking, recovering alcoholic there are vast numbers of active alcoholics who insist that they always drink in moderation.

It seems that drink played a part in the crash in which Princess Diana died. How many other alcohol-related traffic deaths go unreported every day? Nations do not mourn them, but families do. How many suicides? How many battered women, abused children, ruined careers, bankrupt businesses?

I cast no aspersions on Dr Stuttaford's agenda or the validity of the findings he reports. But every medical man must be aware of side effects, and the side effect of his book, magnified through your serialisation, is to encourage "moderate" drinkers in the pursuit of their deadly addiction.

Yours sincerely,  
ERIC SJOGREN,  
37 rue Groeselenberg,  
1180 Brussels,  
September 15.

### Immigration queues

From the Home Office Minister

Sir, Today's item, "So tired of waiting" (Inns and Outs, Law) misrepresents the situation in the Immigration Directorate's Public Enquiry Office (PEO) at Lunar House in Croydon.

The PEO provides a free service aimed at individuals. Many have travelled long distances, at their own expense, to see our staff. On some days, we see over 1,000 people.

They are not "city lawyers and businessmen" camping out all night, but couriers representing paid agents delivering block applications from

clients. If these are handled as one enquiry lengthy queues develop and individual applicants are made to wait longer.

To make this fairer, staff now examine one case per person and use a fast-track postal system which deals with individual applications in a few days.

Agents are invited to come on a designated day when they can present up to six applications in one go.

Yours sincerely,  
MIKE O'BRIEN,  
Home Office,  
50 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1,  
September 23.

### Catholics at Queens

From Sir Gordon Beveridge,  
Vice-Chancellor of The Queen's University of Belfast

Sir, Your report of September 18, headed "Women-only battle for Irish presidency", claims that Professor Mary McAleese, a candidate for the presidency, was "the first Catholic to gain a senior position in Queens". This is incorrect.

Roman Catholics have been professors, heads of department, directors of schools and institutes, deans of faculties and pro-vice-chancellor, in the years prior to Professor McAleese's appointment.

Two Roman Catholics, including a

distinguished cleric, have been senior pro-chancellors, acting, *inter alia*, as Chairmen of Senate, the university's governing body. However Professor McAleese, as you stated, was "the university's first woman pro-vice-chancellor".

Yours sincerely,  
GORDON BEVERIDGE,  
Vice-Chancellor,  
The Queen's University of Belfast,  
Belfast BT7 1NN,  
September 22.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

### The right stuff for military greatness

From Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin

Sir, Reading Colonel Lanning's league table of military leaders and the subsequent correspondence in your columns (reports, September 15; letters, September 17, 20), I reflect that very many of the generals would not have reached the battlefields without assured free use of the sea and enough ships to keep them supplied with the necessities of war.

"He who commands the sea has command of everything." Themistocles, 500BC. Still true.

Yours sincerely,  
LEWIN,  
House of Lords,  
September 20.

From Mr Clive Fairweather

Sir, Colonel Lanning's list should surely take account of leaders whose victories significantly changed the practice and technology of war.

The fall of Constantinople in 1453 was effected by the siege guns of Mohammed II, breaching walls that had stood firm for a thousand years. This awesome firepower marked a turning point in history.

The Hussite Wars between religious factions in 15th century Bohemia saw the first effective use of tanks and hand-guns under the charismatic leadership of the blind general Ziska von Trokno (1370-1424). Here is a man of noted fame, if only for the story (which Montaigne relates) that Ziska wished his own dead body to be flayed and turned into a drum-skin, so that he could continue to rally his forces and unnerve his enemies, even from beyond the grave.

If the drum were extant, no doubt we should see it in the Royal Academy before too long.

Yours sincerely,  
CLIVE FAIRWEATHER,  
3 Bow Road,  
Hartford, Tonnes, Devon,  
September 22.

From Mr Bernard Kaukas

Sir, For an American lieutenant-colonel to place Montgomery 32 places above General Patton (no 95) in his list of military leaders shows great discernment — but even greater courage.

Yours faithfully,  
BERNARD KAUKAS,  
13 Lynwood Road,  
Ealing, W5,  
September 20.

From Mr Peter Ewart

Sir, So George Washington was the greatest commander of all, because without him there would have been no United States.

How ironic that your report appeared on Battle of Britain Day, and that no place at all was found in the list for Air Chief Marshal Lord Dowding.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER EWART,  
Gipsy Court Cottage,  
Shatterling, Canterbury, Kent,  
September 22.

### Treasure trove

From Mr David Graham

Sir, Eight years ago the Surrey Archaeological Society started a campaign for the reform of the ancient law of treasure trove with a letter to *The Times* (October 28, 1989). Today (September 24), after a great deal of work by many individuals and organisations, the new Treasure Act comes into force, replacing a law dating from the time of Richard the Lionheart. An historic moment for anyone interested in the nation's heritage.

Thank you to everyone involved and particularly to *The Times* for helping to bring this about.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID GRAHAM  
(Vice-President),  
Surrey Archaeological Society,  
Castle Arch, Guildford, Surrey.  
david-graham@classic.msn.com  
September 24.

### Restraint of income

From Mr Alfred E. Norris

Sir, Mr Blair's decision (report, September 17) to forgo his salary increase of £41,000 per year is to be applauded.

In the same spirit I would call on all my fellow pensioners not to accept their increase of 25p per week when reaching the age of 80.

Yours faithfully,  
A. E. NORRIS,  
Sea Winds, 14 Beacon Heights,  
Point Clear, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex,  
September 17.

### Wild Wiltshire

From Mr J. B. Pollock

Sir, What is going on at the Bassetts in Wiltshire? In Compton Bassett, I read today, an angry villager sabotaged the church bells and the same page carries the titillating revelation that a JP barred her burn in Wootton Bassett.

However, even though these reports were on page 3 there was no accompanying photo of the latter — what a swiz — but it all makes a change from the corn circle reports of a decade ago.

Yours sincerely,  
J. B. POLLOCK,  
Oyster Cottage, Mill Yard,  
Burnham Market, Norfolk,  
September 18.







## OBITUARIES

## PROFESSOR GEOFFREY BANTOCK

Geoffrey Bantock, Professor of Education at Leicester University, 1964-75, died on September 1 aged 82. He was born on October 12, 1914.

Since 1969, education policies have shifted dramatically away from progressivism and back towards traditional teaching. Geoffrey Bantock played a considerable part in this transformation, particularly through his outspoken contributions to the controversial Black Papers.

A quiet unassuming man, he never withdrew from educational battles, even though he was often hurt by abuse from his opponents. His formidable intelligence and wonderful, clear style exposed confusions in progressive thinking, some of which remain unresolved to this day.

Geoffrey Herman Bantock was educated at Wallasey Grammar School and Emmanuel College at Cambridge, where his love of literature was nurtured by the teachings of F. R. Leavis. After graduation he taught in boys' grammar schools at Ealing and Ilford before his appointment in 1946 to a lectureship in English in Leeds.

In 1950 he moved to University College, Leicester, soon to become a university, where he was Professor of Education from 1964 to 1975. As a young man he published in Leavis's *Scrutiny*, and wrote fine critical pieces about D. H. Lawrence and T. S. Eliot, both of whom were important influences on his educational thinking. He believed that the study of great literature can hugely benefit the development of the emotional life.

His devastating criticisms of progressive education appeared as early as 1952, long before the public and politicians realised that a revolution was taking place in primary schools. In *Freedom and Authority in Education*, published that year, he exposed what he saw as the sloppiness



of contemporary educational thinking.

In the period after 1945, most professors of education had been appointed for their teaching or administrative skills, not for their understanding of the philosophy of education. Bantock made himself unpopular by pointing out that the staff of education departments had usually not

had specialist training in relevant fields, and lacked professional discipline.

He felt that lecturers in education were easily seduced by Rousseau's belief in the innate goodness of children, and by the doctrine that they should find things out for themselves without formal instruction. In a series of books through the 1950s and 1960s, Bantock ac-

knowledgeed the value of play and discovery, but argued for disciplined learning and the authority of the teacher.

He showed that progressives were imposing freedom on children who, on the contrary, had a natural desire and need for order and security. The progressive ideology, he argued, is implicitly authoritarian: Rousseau himself had

written that the child should only do what he wants to do, "but he should only want to do what you want him to do".

Bantock insisted that we achieve true freedom as adults only if we have been subjected to some form of discipline, particularly rational disciplines of study in the classroom. The child cannot harness his own resources alone, but needs first to master some of society's accumulated wisdom.

Until the 1970s Bantock's arguments went unheeded by the leaders of the teaching profession, and he was treated as an eccentric and even a pariah. Then his brilliant essay on "discovery methods" in the second of the Black Papers (1969) made a breakthrough. It was read by thousands of conservative teachers, who were given the courage to speak out for formal discipline. His writings helped to produce a shift of opinion, which culminated in James Callaghan's famous Ruskin College speech of 1976, when the Labour Prime Minister advocated a return to basics.

Bantock believed that progressives are committed to contradictory sets of values. They believe in the importance of the individual, which should mean wanting each child to advance as far as he or she can. But they also believe in equality, leading to collectivism, uniformity and a resistance to streaming. Bantock's position was clear: by the age of 13 children's abilities differ markedly, so they need different paces of teaching and different subject matter.

Bantock's students found him an excellent teacher, who expected high standards. Influenced by writers such as Lawrence and George Sturt, he advocated a curriculum that stimulates creativity in all the arts. After retirement from Leicester he published an impressive two-volume history of educational theory.

He is survived by his wife, Jean, who had been one of his students in Leeds before they married in 1950.

## MUQIMUDDIN FAROOQI

Muqimuddin Farooqi, Secretary of the National Council of the Communist Party of India, died on September 3, aged 77. He was born in Ambetha, Uttar Pradesh in 1920.



MUQIMUDDIN FAROOQI was one of the most modest and austere leaders of the Indian Communist movement. In a country where the political culture abhors ostentation and visible affluence, most politicians have different public and private personas. Farooqi, however, had only one. His personal life was inseparable from his politics, and marked by the same intense simplicity. The single room near the Jama Masjid in Old Delhi where he lived for four decades was open to all, and people thronged there for political discussions or for help.

As a student at St Stephen's College in Delhi University, Farooqi was drawn into the freedom struggle. In 1938, he joined the Communist Party, although at the time the Communists were working within the Congress Party. In December 1939 he helped to organise an anti-war rally, at which he spoke alongside Subhash Chandra Bose, the controversial Congress leader who subsequently sided with Germany and Japan in the hope that they would help India to win freedom. Farooqi, however, firmly opposed the Axis powers, especially after Hitler invaded Russia in 1941.

In 1940 he was elected head of the All India Students' Federation, the Communist-led student front. (An affiliate of the federation, the Punjab Students' Union, had as its secretary at the time Inder Kumar Gujral, who is now Prime Minister of India.) That year, Farooqi organised a strike at Delhi University to protest the arrest of Jawaharlal Nehru. This was the first time any such agitation had occurred in the university, and Sir Maurice Gwyer, the then vice-chancellor, took a dim view. Farooqi was expelled

and stripped of his Master's degree. Only 49 years later, at the urging of Dr Shanker Dayal Sharma, then the President of India, did the university renew his degree.

After independence, Farooqi became active in Delhi's trade union movement. He was a popular figure in the capital and rose swiftly through the party's ranks. After the death of Stalin, when the Soviet Union advocated a "peaceful transition to socialism", the Indian Communists drew close to the Congress. The party split in 1964, ostensibly mirroring the Sino-Soviet split in the world communist movement. Farooqi remained loyal to the Soviet — and less radical — faction. The Communists' proximity to the Congress finally led them to support Indira Gandhi when she imposed a State of Emergency in 1975. Farooqi, along with the rest of his comrades, later acknowledged that this had been a serious error of judgment.

In recent years, Farooqi had been a leading advocate of

Communist participation in "the Third Front" — the loose political coalition currently in power in Delhi — and felt that this was the only way the Congress and the rightist Bharatiya Janata Party could be kept out of power. Ironically, he died minutes after speaking at a seminar on coalition governance.

In its obituary, *The Times of India* called Farooqi "a representative of another era", and said that "amidst the rapid degeneration of ideals in politics, Farooqi clung to the values of the freedom struggle". When an interviewer asked him recently whether his dreams of August 1947 had come to fruition, Farooqi expressed dismay at the persistence of illiteracy, unemployment and poverty, fifty years after Independence. But he refused to be pessimistic. "I am confident that the younger generation will revolt and set things right," he said.

Muqimuddin Farooqi is survived by his wife, the Communist leader Vimla Farooqi, and a son.

## REAR-ADMIRAL DAVID DUNBAR-NASMITH

Rear-Admiral David Dunbar-Nasmith, CB, DSC, Flag Officer Scotland and Northern Ireland 1970-72, died on September 15 aged 76. He was born on February 21, 1921.

GRADUATION from Dartmouth Naval College was a proud start to David Dunbar-

Nasmith's distinguished career in the service and in public life. As chief cadet captain, he was awarded the King's Dirk as the best cadet in his term by his father, Admiral Sir Martin Dunbar-Nasmith, the then Flag Officer Plymouth and a famous submariner whose Victoria Cross had been awarded for his submerged penetrations of the

Sea of Marmara during the Dardanelles campaign of the First World War.

Going to sea as a midshipman shortly before the outbreak of war in 1939, the young Dunbar-Nasmith served in the battleships *Barham* and *Rodney* before joining the destroyer *Kelvin*, as Navigation Officer. *Kelvin* was in the thick of the desper-

ate campaign to evacuate allied forces from Crete in April and May 1941. The Royal Navy suffered many casualties. Four of the squadron's destroyers were sunk, and *Kelvin* was badly damaged.

Dunbar-Nasmith was mentioned in dispatches for his services in March 1942 during the Second Battle of Sirte, when a Malta convoy was

protected from greatly superior Italian forces by smoke and diversionary tactics.

In November 1942 Dunbar-Nasmith was appointed second-in-command of the destroyer *Petard* and the following month the ship accepted the surrender of an Italian submarine off Port Said. Dunbar-Nasmith led the boarding party which recovered important code material, for which he was awarded the DSC. This was a courageous act; a month earlier, when the *Petard* had successfully recovered German code material from the surfaced but sinking U559, his predecessor had been killed.

Dunbar-Nasmith was mentioned in dispatches again in September 1943 for his services during the campaign after the Italian surrender which was designed to open a front in the Aegean. No fewer than eight British destroyers were sunk or damaged in attempts to reinforce and hold some of the Greek islands, but complete German air superiority proved insurmountable.

Promoted to acting lieutenant-commander, Dunbar-Nasmith had a long series of commands. While commanding the minesweeper *Rownea*, he was awarded a third mention in dispatches for his role in the boarding of the merchant ship *Uwa* in February 1947, during the Palestine patrol.

After passing the naval staff course in 1949, he was appointed operations officer to the Flag Officer Commanding the First Cruiser Squadron in the Mediterranean fleet at Malta. This post was held by Rear-Admiral Earl Mountbatten, who had returned to a more modest role after his time as Viceroy of India and



Supreme Allied Commander South-East Asia. The operations officer was kept busy, but also encouraged to pursue his enthusiasms for polo and yachting.

His next command was the frigate *Enard Bay* in Scotland, where he was engaged in the training of boy seamen. Becoming commander in 1951, he served until 1954 on the staff of the Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic during a period of evolution for Nato's early maritime strategy.

After promotion to captain in 1958, he commanded the

frigate *Berwick* and the Fifth Frigate Squadron, his ship at that time being recognised by exercise analysts as perhaps the most efficient anti-submarine vessel in the Navy.

There followed three years as Director of Defence Plans (Naval) at the Ministry of Defence, a central staff appointment reporting again to Mountbatten, who was seeing through his reforms during an unusual second tour as Chief of Defence Staff.

After a year as Commodore Amphibious Forces, Dunbar-Nasmith was promoted to

rear-admiral in 1967. As Naval Secretary he was responsible for the personnel management of the naval officer corps, showing much wisdom in his matching of appointments to people and in the career planning of rising stars.

He was appointed a CB in 1970, and spent his final tour, appropriately enough for a member of an ancient Scottish family, as Flag Officer Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Retiring to Rothes in Morayshire, Dunbar-Nasmith became involved in a host of regional activities. He was vice-chairman of the Highlands and Islands Development Board from 1972 and its chairman in 1981-82. He was also a member of the Country-side Commission for Scotland, 1972-76, the British Waterways Board, 1980-87, and the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board.

His chairmanship of the directors of the Moray and Nairn Newspaper Company, 1982-91 covered the period of a take-over by the Scottish Provincial Press, and Dunbar-Nasmith is affectionately remembered for his stout protection of the workforce and of shareholders' interests. As Vice Lord-Lieutenant for Morayshire from 1980, he was widely admired as a quietly spoken and charming gentleman, who was enormously effective in promoting the interests of the countryside and the local fishing industry. He was appointed a member of the Queen's Birthday Honours for Scotland — the Royal Company of Archers — in 1974, and was Gentleman Usher of the Green Rod to the Order of the Thistle until 1996.

He is survived by his wife Elizabeth and by their two sons and two daughters.

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 25 1997

# Salomon falls to \$9bn takeover

## Travelers makes agreed offer for US investment bank



Peter Middleton walked away from a \$50,000 bonus to run Salomon Bros

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

TRAVELERS GROUP, the financial services company, yesterday launched an agreed \$9 billion (£5.6 billion) takeover bid for Salomon, the US investment bank.

The takeover will unite Smith Barney, Travelers' broking subsidiary, and Salomon Brothers, creating the world's fourth-largest equity underwriter and the second-largest US debt underwriter based on 1996 figures.

Salomon Smith Barney will be led by Deryck Maughan, 49, the son of a Durham miner, who spent ten years at the Treasury, and James Dimon, the Smith Barney executive chairman, as co-chief executives. After completion, Robert Denham, chairman of Salomon Inc, the holding company, will depart. In a joint state-

ment the two groups said: "Salomon Smith Barney will be a global, full-service securities firm that combines Salomon's traditional strength in fixed-income and international presence with Smith Barney's traditional strength in equities, retail distribution, municipal finance and asset management."

Salomon will take a \$500 million restructuring charge mainly for an undisclosed number of redundancies. Salomon staff in London have been reassured that their jobs are mostly safe because of Smith Barney's domestic US focus. But staff at Salomon's head office in New York were told to expect job losses after a move into Smith Barney's offices where "there won't be room for all of you". The merger is expected to be completed by the end of this year. Travelers is offering 1.13 of

its shares, the equivalent of \$81.43, for every Salomon share, worth \$71.50 at close on Tuesday. In May, Salomon shares were trading at less than \$50. Yesterday they quickly zoomed up to \$79 after assessments that regulatory approval was likely.

Mr Maughan said: "The times are changing and we must change with them. Of all the possible combinations we could make, this is the most attractive — from both a cultural as well as a business point of view. Salomon and Smith Barney are a natural fit. I could not be happier."

Mr Dimon said: "Merging Smith Barney and Salomon Brothers accomplishes in a short time what would have taken either of us a considerable time to build."

The deal is the latest in a series in the US financial services industry. Brokers, banks, insurers and fund managers are taking advantage of the easing of banking regulations. Analysts see the deal as a response to the merger of Morgan Stanley and Dean Witter.

Steven Cohen, of Kellner Dileo, a merger arbitrage firm, said: "Salomon is in a lot of businesses that Travelers are not in right now, such as proprietary trading and investment banking."

The takeover more than fulfils Travelers' acquisition criteria. Sanford Weill, execu-

Commentary, page 27  
Liar's poker, page 29

## Middleton makes up for lost bonus

PETER MIDDLETON walked away from a \$50,000 bonus when he quit Lloyd's of London to run the European operations of Salomon Brothers. Two years on, he is laughing all the way to the bank — along with nearly 7,000 very happy Salomon employees (Jon Ashworth writes).

Salomon allows staff to buy shares in the firm at a discount, netting huge potential windfalls from the Smith Barney deal. The real winners are those who have been given shares as part of their annual bonus under Salomon's stock incentive plan. Some long-servers were is-

sued shares as little as \$30 each — leaving them with a \$51-a-share windfall.

Salomon employees together speak for about 20 per cent of the firm's shares. Mr Middleton, who will continue to run European operations for the enlarged securities house, is likely to be enriched by several million pounds.

Perhaps the biggest single winner is Shigeru "Sugar" Miyajima, London-based head of proprietary trading, who was paid \$31 million in 1996, including \$2 million in shares. Deryck Maughan, head of Salomon's worldwide operations, was paid \$11.5 million.

## Buffett's investment yields \$1.4bn profit

THE purchase of Salomon Brothers will further enhance the reputation of Warren Buffett, "the Sage of Omaha", who ploughed \$700 million (£434 million) of his investors' money into the brokerage in 1987, backed the firm in its darkest hour and is now sitting on a profit of more than \$1.4 billion (Jason Nisse writes).

Berkshire Hathaway, Mr Buffett's fund, bought \$700 million of Salomon preferred shares in 1987, showing faith at the time of the Wall Street crash. The shares carry a dividend of 9 per cent, paying Mr Buffett around \$600 million over the decade.

When Salomon was hit by the bonds scandal in the early 1990s, Mr Buffett stepped into the breach and became the firm's chairman. He also invested further in Salomon shares, spending an estimated \$320 million.

Mr Buffett cashed in \$140 million of preferred stock two years ago and converted \$140 million worth at \$38 a share last year. The remaining \$420 million converts at \$38 per Salomon share into Travelers shares once yesterday's deal proceeds. The bid values each Salomon share at \$81 and Mr Buffett's holding in Travelers at \$1.73 billion.

## BUSINESS TODAY

### STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5077.2	(+48.7)
Yield	3.24%	
FTSE All share	2383.98	(+18.13)
Nikkei	18421.09	(+218.78)
Dow Jones	8003.22	(+33.19)
S&P Composite	955.23	(+4.80)

### US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(5 1/8%)
Long Bond	100 3/4%	(97 3/4%)
Yield	6.34%	(6.39%)

### LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	7 1/8%	(7 1/8%)
Life long gilt	117 1/8%	(117 1/8%)
Future (Dec)	117 1/8%	(117 1/8%)

### STERLING

New York	1.8107*	(1.8138)
London	1.8128	(1.8128)
DM	2.8599	(2.8548)
FF	6.5070	(6.7261)
Sfr	2.3498	(2.3761)
Yen	193.42	(195.88)
E Index	100.3	(101.4)

### US DOLLAR

London	1.7748*	(1.7688)
DM	5.9540*	(6.0233)
Sfr	1.4800*	(1.4705)
Yen	180.27*	(182.05)
E Index	106.1	(106.0)

Tokyo close Yen 120.09

### NOTES/ISSUES

Brent 15-day (Dec)	\$18.88	(\$18.85)
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### BOND

London close	\$92.55	(\$92.55)
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\* denotes midday trading price

## Full house

Sir Lawrie Barratt presented his last full-year results as chairman of Barratt Developments, the housebuilder, announcing a 35 per cent rise in profits before tax. Page 26

## Shell deal

Shell Oil, the American arm of the Royal/Dutch Shell group, has launched a \$1.45 billion (£899 million) bid for Texas Gas, a pipeline and gas storage company based in Texas. Page 27, Tempus 28

## Granada rules out disposal of Méridien Hotels

By DOMINIC WALSH

CHARLES ALLEN, chief executive of Granada, yesterday ruled out a disposal of the upmarket Méridien Hotels chain but indicated that the Forte Heritage chain will eventually be sold.

Mr Allen, who has spent this week briefing City analysts and corporate clients on the group's plans, admitted there had been "a lot of confusion" over the future of Méridien. During the bid for Forte, Granada said it would be sold off, only to change its stance.

Mr Allen said: "We see Méridien as a significant opportunity. I don't want to own bricks and mortar around the world, but we're committed to it as a management contract business."

There are more than 90 Méridiens around the world and 16 under construction, and the aim is to hit 150 by the year 2000. Mr Allen added that the 30 owned properties outside the UK would be sold

over time provided Granada retained the management contract. He revealed that the brand would also be developed through strategic alliances with other hotel chains, particularly in the USA and Asia Pacific.

In the UK, Posthouse and the budget Travelodge chain are to benefit from next year's planned £200 million investment programme, with Posthouse being put through a £60 million makeover. However, the 65-strong Heritage chain will eventually be sold off. Thirteen hotels were put up for sale in the summer and Mr Allen conceded: "If we took a five-year view, we probably wouldn't be owners of the Heritage portfolio."

The Grosvenor House will be sold provided Granada can get the £350 million it is looking for, but some other Exclusive hotels that remain unsold may be retained.

Commentary, page 27

## Joe Bloggs founder saves Emanuel

SHAMI AHMED, the multi-millionaire founder of Joe Bloggs, the high street clothing company, yesterday stepped in at the last minute to save the exclusive fashion business owned by Elizabeth Emanuel (Chris Ayres writes).

Ms Emanuel achieved worldwide recognition after designing the wedding dress worn by Diana, Princess of Wales. She had pleaded for financial help last month after the collapse of Hamlet, the clothing importer that owned a 48 per cent stake in her business. In the jeans, page 29



Emanuel: financial plea

## McDonald's fast food course for college students

By MARTIN WALLER

MCDONALD'S, the huge hamburger chain, is planning to convert the country's 1.5 million students to the Big Mac by issuing a special privilege card offering them extra hamburgers free with their meals. The card is being distributed through the National Union of Students.

The aim is that all students will receive the cards in time for the academic term just starting and be valid, on production of an NUS membership card, until August.

The marketing drive is the biggest push yet into the student market, which is already being courted by any number of commercial concerns, such as banks keen to catch consumers early in their working lives.

For McDonald's, the aim is the opposite. The company, locked in a bitter marketing battle with Burger King, is trying to reach out to an older consumer base, say observers. Ronald McDonald, the clown

used as the company's mascot, is more associated with the children's market.

A company spokesman said ad hoc deals with local colleges were already in place, but the cards would now be useable across the country.

The idea of marketing McDonald's to students would have been unthinkable a few years ago in the heyday of student radicalism, and it is likely to attract some considerable criticism now. McDonald's is deeply unpopular in liberal circles.

The company has just emerged from a mammoth libel action against two environmental activists and is highly sensitive to suggestions that its production methods damage the planet's rainforests, or use large amounts of chemicals and preservatives.

But McDonald's said: "We don't get involved in the politics of this. We're selling food."

## New yoghurt that fools the stomach

By PAUL DURMAN

SCOTIA HOLDINGS, the company that tries to develop drugs from naturally occurring fats, is working on a yoghurt that fools weight-conscious consumers that they are full up.

If Scotia can prove its claims, the active ingredient in the yoghurt is potentially worth tens or even hundreds of millions of pounds to the company. Sales of the yoghurt in the Swedish market alone could generate up to £10 million for Scotia, it believes. But yoghurts are only a starting point.

because Scotia believes that its fat extract can be added to almost any kind of food without encountering regulatory problems.

David Horrobin, Scotia's chief executive, said: "We believe this has major potential. It has strong patent protection, it is entirely natural, and it does not involve any of the fat substitutes or any of the alternatives that have run into trouble recently."

Some existing appetite-suppressing drugs have recently been withdrawn from the market because of new evidence that they cause heart prob-

lems. Scotia is working on the yoghurt with an unnamed Swedish milk company, which plans to begin test marketing the product early next year.

Scotia's LipidTeknik arm is initially developing its so-called 'leak brake' as a food ingredient — cutting out much of the testing that would be necessary if it was to be marketed as a weight control drug.

The fat extract works by prompting a chemical release in the gut that slows digestion and gives the sensation of being full. Initial testing of the yoghurt on 60 people suggests that it can cut

calorie intake at a meal by 15-30 per cent.

Scotia has not always delivered on its most exciting products, and its science is regarded with scepticism in some quarters. However, last week's \$54 million (£33.5 million) licensing deals for Foscan, its laser-activated cancer drug, have bolstered confidence in its most important product.

Scotia's first-half sales grew by 38 per cent to £10 million. But higher research and development spending increased the pre-tax loss from £7 million to £12.8 million.

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## Job loss rises in forecourt price war

By KEVIN EASON  
MOTORING EDITOR

PETROL retailers yesterday demanded that the Government declare a ceasefire in the price war that will cost nearly 10,000 forecourt jobs this year.

A delegation from the Retail Motor Industry Federation told John Birt, the Energy Minister, that 2,000 filling stations will close as small independent garages are caught up in the crossfire between the oil majors and supermarkets.

The Office of Fair Trading is due to publish results of its inquiry into the oil industry next month.

Oil companies have faced two investigations by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission into alleged price-fixing over the past decade as critics claim overcharging.

However, the industry now faces domination by the biggest players as independent garages fail.

The price war has been sparked by the entry of supermarket chains that sell huge amounts of petrol but with no overhead costs of refining and distribution. Oil majors, such as Shell and BP, have been forced to respond by matching the prices of Tesco, Sainsbury and Waitrose.

From 18,500 retailers two years ago, there are 14,500 now and the federation forecasts that number will be down to 9,500 by the end of the century.

Chris MacGowan, the federation's chief executive, warned after the meeting with Mr Birt: "This war between the supermarkets and the big oil companies is costing the country dear."

"In towns and cities, we do not notice the effects so much, but out in the countryside there are filling stations disappearing all the time. This is a loss of a valuable service to rural communities where the car is a vital means of transport."

## Barratt signs off with 35% increase to £70m

By ADAM JONES

SIR Lawrie Barratt presented his last full-year results as chairman of Barratt Developments, the housebuilder, yesterday, announcing a 35 per cent rise in profits before tax.

Driven by the buoyant market for new homes in the South of England, earnings for the year to June 30 were £70.1 million, up from £52.1 million in the previous year.

Turnover increased by 13 per cent to £714 million, with completions rising 10 per cent to 7,710. The return on capital employed was 21 per cent.

Sir Lawrie, who retired from Barratt in 1988 only to return in 1991 when the company hit trouble, predicted the growth in home ownership in Britain would continue for some years. He expects the housebuilding industry to consolidate into five big groups. Barratt has a 5 per cent share of the UK market for new housing.

Frank Eaton, chief executive, said it would not seek to grow by large acquisition, however, saying the main reason for such a move would be to acquire a competitor's surplus development land.

Barratt said it has a land bank sufficient for three years' supply. In the year, £123 million was invested in land in southern England, 59 per cent of total land purchases.

After retiring on November

20, Sir Lawrie will take on the unpaid title of life president, which he described as an honorary consultative role.

Mr Eaton will become chairman in addition to his present role. Sir Lawrie said such a dual role does not contradict corporate governance recommendations made by the Hampel committee.

Basil Bean, a non-executive director, will become non-executive vice-chairman, and a managing director will be appointed to work alongside Mr Eaton.

The average UK selling price was £87,100, up 3.9 per cent on 1995-96. Mr Eaton said he expects new housing prices to increase by 3 or 4 per cent in the current financial year.

Projects being completed include a £32 million development overlooking the Globe Theatre in London, close to St Paul's Cathedral.

Mr Eaton criticised reductions in mortgage interest tax relief continued by the Labour Government when it assumed power earlier this year.

Earnings rose to 19.8p a share from 17.8p. A final dividend of 6p will be paid, compared with 5.5p, giving a 9p total for the year, a 9 per cent increase. The total dividend is covered 2.2 times.



Building up: Sir Lawrie Barratt, left, and Frank Eaton

## Traditional soccer fans find games too costly

By JASON NISSE

RESEARCH into the finances of football has confirmed the anecdotal evidence from the terraces that the game is now too expensive for many of its traditional supporters.

A survey of 2,500 football fans due to be published next week will show that 78 per cent of season ticket-holders at Premiership clubs and 55 per cent of those who attend some matches are social class ABC1, compared with 47 per cent of the population as a whole.

The report, by Fletcher Research, the publishers, and Oliver & Ohlmaum, consultants, indicates that only 750,000 fans attended at least one Premiership match last year even though 18 million people claim to be football fans, with 14 million supporting Premiership teams. Ticket prices in the top flight of English soccer have soared by more than 200 per cent in the past decade.

The survey predicts that the total football-related turnover of the Premier League will nearly treble from £350 million in 1995-96 to £1.1 billion in 2004-05. Of this, nearly half will come from pay-per-view TV, which is expected to be introduced in the early part of the next decade.

The largest share of this revenue will go to Manchester United, followed by Liverpool and Newcastle United.

## GuCCI shares fall on profits alert

THE label may still be seen on the backs of the world's most stylish women, but shares in Gucci, the Italian fashion house, have suddenly become unfashionable. The company, which was floated two years ago, issued a profits warning that poor economic conditions in some of its key markets will restrict its growth in the second half of this year. The statement triggered a fall of more than 15 per cent in the value of the shares, which are quoted in Amsterdam and New York.

Comparisons with last year, when it enjoyed exceptional growth, will be tough. However, the company added: "Worldwide demand for Gucci products remains very strong and our fall-winter collection has been praised by the fashion press and is selling well in the stores. We continue to believe that our long-term outlook remains excellent." The company's first-half net income rose 29 per cent to \$90.3 million. Investcorp, the Bahrain private investment bank, floated Gucci in 1995. It took full control in 1993.

## Yamaichi chief arrested

A WIDENING racketeer-payoff scandal claimed new members of Japan's business elite on Wednesday with the arrest of Atsuo Miki, the former president of Yamaichi Securities, and an executive shake-up at Daiwa Securities. Yamaichi is accused of making 79 million yen (£408,000) in illegal payments to a racketeer, Daiwa, Japan's second-largest brokerage, said its president, chairman and five other top executives would resign at the end of this month.

## Micromass sold

MICROMASS, the Manchester instrument manufacturer bought in March last year by Schroder Ventures for £47 million, was sold yesterday for \$178 million (£110 million) to the Waters Corporation, the American analytical instrument group. Around 30 senior staff at Micromass, once part of Fisons, invested in the buyout last year although details of their profits were not being released yesterday. Net sales were \$91 million in 1996.

## Cookson to sell Anzon

COOKSON, the specialist industrial materials company, has agreed to sell part of its plastics division to Great Lakes, the international specialty chemical company listed in New York. The deal will end Cookson's involvement in plastics additives, following the disposals of Synpro in 1995 and its pigments businesses in 1996. Cookson expects to sell Anzon, which has sales of £50 million and operations in the UK, the US, Mexico and South Africa, in October.

## Two leave Sotheby's

SIMON DE PURY, chairman of Sotheby's Europe, and Daniela Luxembourg, deputy chairman of Sotheby's Switzerland, are leaving the fine art auction house to set up their own company and create an art fund on behalf of a small group of collectors. Henry Wyndham, a senior executive at Sotheby's for the past three years, becomes chairman of Sotheby's Europe. Diana Brooks, chief executive of Sotheby's Holdings, said: "We are very sad to see them go."

## Brake Brothers falls

ANOTHER poor performance from Puritan Maid, the food distributor bought from Forte two years ago, adversely affected interim profits at Brake Brothers. Puritan Maid incurred a £3.9 million loss, causing group pre-tax profits to fall 13 per cent to £10.8 million. Brake said Puritan Maid is on the road to recovery and is expected to break even next year. Earnings fell 10.1 per cent to 14.2p a share but the interim dividend, payable on December 31, was increased to 3.2p (2.9p).

## B&B raises rate

BRADFORD & BINGLEY, the second largest building society, is raising its variable mortgage rate by 0.25 per cent to 7.95 per cent. The average variable rate among larger lenders is 8.45 per cent. The society is pledging not to raise its rate again until the end of January, even if base rates rise again before then. The move is a delayed response to the July and August base rate rises. Borrowers of more than two years' standing will continue to pay a reduced rate of 7.75 per cent.

## Airbus wins US deal worth \$2bn

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

AIRBUS, the consortium that includes British Aerospace, yesterday won a \$2 billion (£1.2 billion) order for 50 aircraft from Northwest Airlines, of the US.

The carrier has also taken out an option to purchase a further 100 aircraft, valued at an extra \$4 billion if fully exercised. Northwest is purchasing A319s, Airbus's smallest craft seating 124 passengers each, and the option is for a mix of A319s and A320s, which seat 150. The order marks a major triumph

for the European consortium, which has fought hard to maintain its presence in America.

Fears had been raised over its market position following the merger of its competitors McDonnell Douglas and Boeing, and their exclusive supplier contracts with three major American airlines.

Deliveries of the initial batch of 50 aircraft will start in 1999 and run until 2003. The sale will boost employment growth at the BAE plants in Bristol and Chester.

## Pound falls against the mark

THE pound slumped on foreign exchanges yesterday after Hans Tietmeyer, President of the Bundesbank, said it would not tolerate further falls in the value of the mark.

In a separate intervention, Franz-Christian Zeidler, a Bundesbank council member, said an unexpectedly good set of inflation figures did not rule out a rise in rates. The pound lost four pence to finish at DM2.8565. The trade weighted index slid more than a point to close at 100.3.

## New guidelines ask firms to report sooner

By ROBERT BRUCE

COMPANIES will have to produce interim reports sooner and will have less scope to 'smooth' their figures under new guidelines published today by the Accounting Standards Board.

The ASB's guidance statement takes on many of the proposals published last November in exposure draft form. In particular, it has trimmed the 60 days allowed for companies to report under the current Stock Exchange rules back to 40 days.

Reports will have to be produced using what is known as the 'Discrete' method, ensuring that companies treat the interim period as a distinct accounting period and not as a proportion of the annual results.

Companies whose business is heavily seasonal, like retailers or tour operators, will have to report results which differ markedly between the first half and the second half of the

year. The proposals will mean more companies reporting in the holiday period of August, a factor which was behind the original lengthy time allowance under the old Stock Exchange rules.

The guidelines are not mandatory, but the ASB feels that as a recommendation of best practice they will ensure that companies raise their reporting standards. "To be really effective, interims need to be timely and show what actually happened in the period," said Sir David Tweedie, the ASB chairman.

The proposals also encourage a lengthier section of management commentary to highlight and explain significant events. The guidance has been commended by the London and Irish stock exchanges, the Financial Reporting Council and the Hundred Group of Finance Directors.

Accountancy, page 34

## EU rules out duty-free sales rethink

THE European Commission yesterday ruled out going back on a decision to scrap duty-free sales within the European Union in mid-1999, despite intense industry lobbying (Our City Staff writes).

Mario Monti, the EU Taxation and Single Market Commissioner, appealed to duty free shop operators to start concrete preparations for converting their shops to tax-paid retail outlets.

He issued a statement to coincide with an industry conference on duty-free sales in Brussels.

EU finance ministers decided unanimously in 1991 to abolish duty-free sales for travellers within the 15-nation bloc from June 30, 1999. Any decision to reverse this would also need approval by all member states.

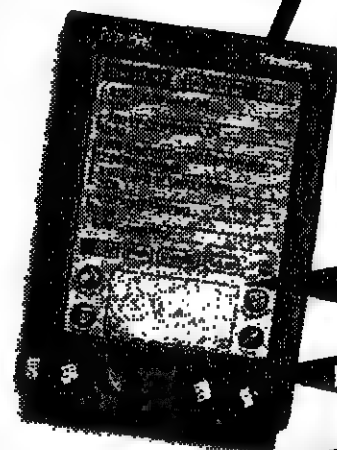
## TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.84	2.17
Austria Sch	21.12	18.46
Belgium Fr	66.21	67.25
Canada \$	2.368	2.178
Cyprus Cyp£	0.888	0.817
Denmark Kr	11.47	10.58
Finland Mk	9.08	8.35
France Fr	10.08	9.30
Germany Dm	3.02	2.78
Greece Dr	478	435
Hong Kong \$	13.32	12.12
Iceland	128	108
Ireland P	1.15	1.08
Israel Shk	5.96	5.31
Italy Lira	2867	2730
Japan Yen	208.65	191.10
Malta	0.888	0.807
Netherlands Gld	3.411	3.118
New Zealand \$	2.98	2.44
Norway Kr	12.21	11.27
Portugal Esc	303.03	281.00
S Africa Rd	8.26	7.32
Spain Ptas	225.79	204.00
Sweden Kr	13.01	11.81
Switzerland Fr	2.51	2.25
Turkey Lira	288.63	268.00
USA \$	1.720	1.577

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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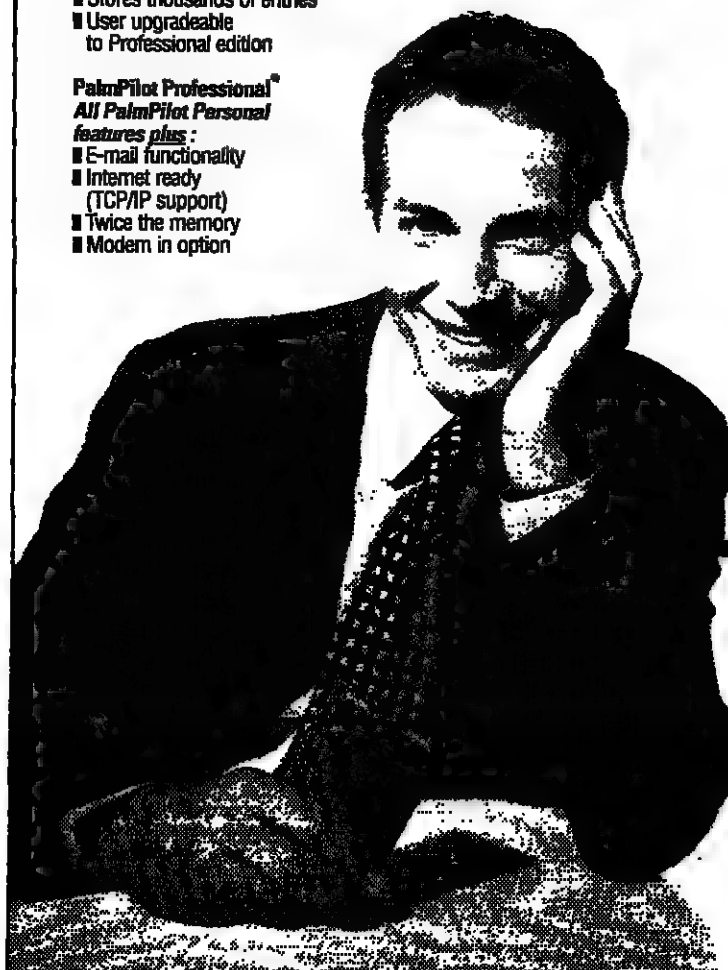
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## Flotation of Energis stake confirmed

THE flotation of Energis, the energy services company, has been confirmed. The company, which is a subsidiary of the British Energy group, is to be listed on the London Stock Exchange. The flotation is expected to raise £100 million for the company. Energis is a leading provider of energy services in the UK and is a member of the British Energy group. The flotation is being led by the investment bank, Morgan Stanley.

The flotation of Energis is a significant event for the British Energy group. It is the first time that a subsidiary of the group has been floated on the London Stock Exchange. The flotation is expected to raise £100 million for the company. Energis is a leading provider of energy services in the UK and is a member of the British Energy group. The flotation is being led by the investment bank, Morgan Stanley.

"If perfection was the goal, it would never be achieved. It is a process, not a destination." - Aristotle

Ardbeg



# Blair gets in tune with business



COMMENTARY  
by our City Editor

Over breakfast in Downing Street yesterday, Tony Blair's words to a collection of business big chiefs were as warm and comforting as the croissants. And a sensible political party should be pro-business and pro-enterprise, he told them. Sceptics might have taken this as merely the latest example of the cosy-up-to-business that Labour has done since Mr Blair took on the leadership. But it is looking increasingly as if the Government may be moving in tune with what business wants.

Margaret Beckett's latest move over the planned national minimum wage certainly points in that direction. Although most businesses would be happier without the imposition of any such restriction on how they reward their workforce, the indications from the President of the Board of Trade yesterday are that the level is likely to be set sufficiently low to cause little pain to employers.

In spite of his energetic wooing of corporate Britain, Mr Blair's arrival at No 10 had posed two big concerns for business. The first was the plan to force companies to recognise trade unions; the second was the threat of a national minimum wage.

The issue of union recognition remains a red rag to some businessmen, but, having accepted that it is inevitable, the CBI is at least being involved with the TUC in the process of trying to come up with workable proposals that

might enable both sides of the employment equation to be relatively sanguine about the effects of the legislation. And now the Low Pay Commission is being given guidelines, which old Labour might interpret as a muzzle, that should ensure the commission has virtually no bite.

The obligation to take the economic implications of a minimum wage fully into account when recommending its level coupled with the demand to consider exemptions for young people, ought to encourage a sensible chap like George Bain to produce some very workable recommendations.

He will, for instance, be taking heed of today's survey from the British Chambers of Commerce, which emphasises that the level of the minimum wage will be crucial in determining the impact on jobs and inflation generally.

So far the signs from the commission look optimistic. Business leaders, trade unionists and the independent academics on it seem determined to reach a recommendation that will strike precisely that balance.

Next week, at the party conference in Brighton, Labour leaders will be faced with the challenge of continuing to keep

the confidence of business while not alienating too many members of the party. But the hard-hitting speech that Tony Blair gave to the TUC gathering indicates the direction in which he will err. Some members of the TUC are still reeling from his instructions that they must bring themselves up to date or vanish for ever. As one staunch union man remarked, not even Lady Thatcher at her fiercest would have dared deliver such a lecture in the lions' den.

## Now life really begins at Forte

Gerry Robinson and his team at Granada have made little secret of their disdain for the way most hoteliers run their businesses. During the hard-fought contest for Forte, the public criticisms were muted compared with the intimations that have come as the company has tried to impose

new methods and financial disciplines on its acquisition. But there is now an air of gentle gloating emanating from Granada: it claims to have achieved the level of profit improvement it sought. "We told you we could do it," they boast. Of course, it has been painful, they say. Jobs have had to go, morale has suffered. But now the rewards will be reaped. Let the new investment flow as the company demonstrates a continued commitment to the hotel business.

The Meridien chain, which some had thought likely to be in search of a new owner before long, is instead turned into an important part of future strategy, but romantics can forget any idea of Granada being a convert to the idea of hotels as a special sort of business, in need of particular indulgence. Instead, Granada chief executive Charles Allen says Meridien is similar to Sutcliffe, the contract catering

company, in which Granada's techniques have succeeded in lifting margins from 4 per cent to more than twice that level. Some 15 Meridien contracts have been won in the past 18 months and more are in the pipeline. You can almost taste the portion control beginning.

But the changes go far beyond that. In a series of presentations to the City, Granada has been keen to show off just what innovation it has made at Forte, and it ranges from the introduction of the art systems to sales and marketing programmes that should leave some other hoteliers standing. More than £200 million is to be ploughed into the hotel business over the coming year and if that does not produce results, then Mr Robinson will want to know why.

At least £60 million of the money will go into the Posthouse chain, a flagging brand which will have to work hard to retrieve

the loyalty of its target business traveller market. Travelodge, which has allowed rival Travel Inn to cruise past it, will also benefit from new money.

The future for hotels is all about brands, and Granada has accepted the need to invest in building them. The results should underline just what a steal the Forte group was.

## Buffett plays another ace

When news broke last week that Warren Buffett might be edging out of equities and into bonds, a frisson of fear rippled through Wall Street and towards the London stock market.

The legendary investor might only be moving what for him is the trifling sum of \$2 billion, but Mr Buffett has earned a reputation for successful trend spotting.

Yesterday's surprise announcement that Salomon is giving up its independence to join with Travelers brought the Buffett seal of authenticity to another trend: the amalgamation of investment bankers. One might say that Mr Buffett

had been a trifle slow in spotting a movement that has already seen Merrill Lynch thunder into Smith New Court, a host of European organisations change the signs over doors in the Square Mile and even adventurous British banks buying up US houses.

But that would be to ignore the full range of Mr Buffett's skills, for he has waited to deal until what must be pretty much the top of the market. Other institutions that cannot make it on their own are unlikely to be able to beat the terms that Salomon has negotiated.

The combined bank becomes one of the top players in the international league — a truly global operation. Its ascendance raises more questions over the future of the second liners in a world market that is eventually likely to be dominated by only a handful of investment banks.

## Fashion victim?

SHAMI AHMED has demonstrated a shrewd business sense in building up his Joe Blaggs brand, becoming one of the youngest millionaires in the country. He has created a clothing empire based on cheap casual wear and a clever name. So it is hard not to feel fearful for his decision to get involved with a woman most famous for designing lavish creations of silk and satin, and whose own dress sense is somewhat questionable.

# Shell Oil launches \$1.4bn bid for Texas company

By CARL MORTISHED

SHELL OIL, the American arm of the Royal/Dutch Shell group, has launched a \$1.45 billion (£899 million) bid for Texas Gas, a pipeline and gas storage company based in Texas.

The takeover, which is recommended by the Texas Gas board, will increase the scale of Shell's extensive gas production and pipeline network in the southern states of America and the Gulf of Mexico.

In addition, it will consolidate Shell's control of Coral Energy, one of the top five energy marketing businesses in the US.

Shell is paying \$61.50 for each Texas share, compared with a market price of \$50,

and will be taking on \$900 million in debt and preference shares.

Texas has been expanding rapidly with acquisitions, becoming one of the larger interstate gas pipeline and storage companies, with operations in Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana.

Texas brings with it a 44 per cent stake in Coral Energy, a business established in 1995 with Shell Oil. In June, Shell Canada merged its gas marketing operation business with Coral and the Canadian Shell subsidiary acquired a 12 per cent interest in Coral.

Yesterday's deal gives Shell complete ownership of a business with total gas volumes of 6.9 billion cu ft per day, and in

the first quarter of this year, Coral marketed 2.2 million megawatt hours of electricity.

Together, Texas and Shell will own 10,600 miles of interstate pipelines with a throughput capacity of 8 billion cu ft per day. They will also own gas reserves totalling 7.5 trillion cu ft.

Shell is making a significant push worldwide to extend its reach down the "gas chain" with pipeline and power generation projects. In the Gulf of Mexico, Shell Oil has invested heavily in deep water exploration over the past five years, finding huge oil and gasfields but deregulation is increasing the competition for market share in the US, causing a margin squeeze among the

leading gas marketing companies.

Over the past three years Texas has increased earnings by 25 per cent and cash flow by 27 per cent through a series of leveraged acquisitions, making the company, which is based in Houston, a potential takeover target, in spite of its relatively heavy debt load, analysts said.

The deal was approved by the Texas board, and insiders holding about 19 per cent of the company's stock have agreed to vote for the merger. Jay Precourt, Texas chief executive, and Frederic Hamilton, chairman, will remain with the company.

Timesup, page 30

## New chiefs named by Burton

BURTON has taken another step towards demerger with the appointment of three managing directors to run the high street clothing brands that will stay within the main group (Sarah Cunningham writes).

Andy King, current managing director of Burton Menswear, will handle the menswear brands. Steve Longdon, managing director of Top Shop/Top Man, will handle women's wear and Hilary Riva, managing director of Evans, will look after the speciality brands.

The multiples business has yet to be renamed.

## Greenalls seeks healthier future

By DOMINIC WALSH

GREENALLS GROUP, the pub and hotel operator, is to launch a chain of standalone health and fitness clubs as part of an attempt to stem City fears over the group's future.

Shares in Greenalls plunged 37½p to 414p yesterday, their lowest level since early 1995, as the group issued a trading statement in which it admitted that its managed pubs estate was suffering from a slowdown in investment and dull trading in the Northwest.

Lord Daresbury, Greenalls chief executive, said the company had suffered from "taking a pause" in the wake of the acquisition of Boddington two years ago just as rival groups

were pumping millions into their estates.

Capital expenditure will rise from £175 million this year to £200 million next, and the group expects some of that money to go into the new chain of health and fitness clubs. Investment in its managed pubs division — yesterday's culprit — will be boosted by £30 million to £110 million.

In the wake of yesterday's profit warning, analysts took a scalpel to their profit forecasts. Nigel Parson, of Chatterhouse Tilney, has shaved £4 million from this year's forecast, to £155 million.

Timesup, page 28

## Avonmore Waterford warning

AVONMORE Waterford, the Irish dairy group forged by the merger earlier this month of two co-operatives, said yesterday that significant rationalisation costs and asset writedowns will hit results (Sarah Cunningham writes).

It intends to include all the one-off charges in the 1997 results "in as far as it is possible" and expects to see strong earnings growth in 1998.

In the half year ended July 5, Avonmore Foods' turnover rose to £164.72 million (£588 million), while pre-tax profit rose to £17 million (£13.1 million). Waterford Foods' pre-tax profits in the half year to June 30 fell to £17.82 million (£10.64 million) as turnover fell to £156.9 million (£154.04 million).

## Flotation of Energis stake confirmed

By ERIC REGULY

THE National Grid confirmed yesterday that it will float a minority stake in Energis, its telecommunications subsidiary, by the end of the year. The offering is expected to value the company at about £1 billion.

The Grid probably will sell between 25 per cent and 30 per cent of Energis, and certainly no more than 49 per cent because it wants to retain control.

The initial public offering should raise more than £200 million in new money, which will be used to repay shareholder loans of about £230 million.

Energis was created in 1993 when the Grid spotted the opportunity to use its national electricity transmission network to launch a low-cost telecoms carrier. It did so by stringing cables underneath its electricity pylons. Energis has so far cost the Grid almost £600 million in infrastructure costs and operating losses.

Energis got off to a slow start, but is gaining customers rapidly as the demand from Internet service providers and media companies for high-capacity networks increases. The company expects to make its first operating profits this year, although it will be several years before it reports net profits.

When Energis appeared to be going nowhere, the Grid considered selling it outright or combining it with another telecoms operator. Now that its



Mike Grabiner, left, with Chris Hibbert, finance director

fortunes have improved, the Grid wants to retain a majority stake. The flotation is designed to build Energis's value in the Grid's share price. Speculation about the flotation has boosted Grid shares in recent weeks, but yesterday they closed at 282½p, down 4p.

Analysts said Energis could be worth anywhere from 30p to 70p per Grid share. Mike Grabiner, Energis's chief executive, last year agreed an options package that will give him Energis shares valued up to four times his annual salary of about £200,000.

## Superscape recruits as loss deepens

Superscape, the software group that has seen its shares plunge from 778p to 56p over the past 12 months, saw its pre-tax losses deepen from £2.9 million to £6 million for the year ended July 31, on turnover of £3.1 million, down from £3.9 million.

Losses per share also deepened from 37.9p to 69.6p. No dividend will be paid. The company said it had recruited a new US sales team and repositioned itself as a supplier of interactive 3D products. Its 3D Internet browser will go on sale later this year. The shares rose 19p to 83p.

## Good start

Electronics Boutique, the video games group, bounced back into the black in the six months to July 31 with a £622,000 pre-tax profit (£3.2 million loss) on sales up from £24.3 million to £42.8 million. Again there is no dividend. Earnings were 0.24p (1.25p loss).

## Spandex dips

Spandex, the supplier to the sign industry, suffered a fall in pre-tax profits from £4.5 million to £3.6 million on sales of £18 million (£17.9 million). Earnings were 6.9p (8.6p), though the half-year dividend rises from 1.1p to 1.2p. The shares rose from 25p to 262½p.

## Brake deal

LucasVarity, the transatlantic engineering group, is to supply braking components to the new Mercedes A class small car, due to be launched in October. It would not reveal the value of the contract.

## Jongleurs expands

JONGLEURS, the comedy club joint venture between Regent Inns and John Davey, who founded the concept in London 12 years ago, is to be rolled out nationwide (Dominic Walsh writes). The original clubs in Battersea and Camden were recently joined by a third, in Bow, East London, and David Franks, managing director of Regent, said yesterday that further

clubs were under construction in Oxford and Leicester. Sites had also been identified in Southampton, Watford, Nottingham and Cambridge.

In the year to July 5, Regent saw a 57 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £12.6 million on turnover up 40 per cent to £44.4 million. Earnings per share rose 45 per cent to 12.8p. A final dividend of 2.3p will be paid on November 17, making 3.3p (2.2p).

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GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Price Waterhouse's ambitious but unimaginative plan to merge with Coopers & Lybrand was instantly panned. Workday business folk enjoy any chance for innocent merriment at the expense of accountants, much as policemen falling down holes or accidentally felled umpires bring out the worst in those of us normally obliged to show respect. An attempt to create the world's biggest professional services group offers plenty of scope for malice before its fate is decided by the votes of 8,500 partners, the thumbs of regulators and the chequebooks of clients.

How different has been the initial reception of another agreed financial services merger that aims to bring together America's Smith Barney and Salomon Brothers. The logic is plain. By putting together complementary businesses, it might create a new one capable of much more than either partner on its own. The lure of adding two and two to make five is so great that Wall Street seems happy to face the punishing prospect of melding two firms with wildly different cultures.

The purpose of both mergers is ultimately the same: to create a world-scale firm with the clout to compete in any market and capable of tackling any task that its increasingly global clients are likely to throw at it. By being ahead of the game that its clients are playing, each seeks to gain a lasting commercial advantage.

One reason for the contrasting responses is that Coopers and Price Waterhouse are remarkably similar. Putting the two together doubtless fills in geographical and personnel weaknesses. Its chief aim, however, is to make a new firm similar to the old ones but bigger, able to cut more costs, beef up information consultancy and deploy more resources to fast-growing markets in post-Communist economies.

The timing is also a little

suspicious, coming after a long boom. The last round of mergers, which cut the big eight to the big six by bringing together the smallest, came at the end of the 1980s.

Partners of Price Waterhouse, the most upmarket in its own collective mind, refused to dance that time. Now it is number six and has been feeling exposed, especially in America. If "CLPW" is born and the big six become five, Deloitte Touche Tomahatsu, then fifth, may well embrace Ernst & Young, by then number four. After another economic cycle KPMG, by then the smallest of four, might then the smallest of four, might look to fulfil the prophecy that there will only be three world accountancy firms in the next century.

Surely, the strategic thinking of the world's top financial advisers cannot be as silly as that. On this thinking the key is to get your merger in last, so that there are no

more mergers to be had, or that would be allowed.

Many industries have fewer truly global competitors. Investment banking is one. But thereby hangs the essential difference. Consolidation among securities houses is building more top houses. Salomon Smith Barney would be one of those itching to challenge Goldman Sachs's profit-

able dominance in global equity issues. Five years hence there might be eight world-class firms instead of three or four today. This is a creative process of evolution that adds to choice.

Shrinking accountancy's big six just cuts competition. Except in countries with distinctive accounting systems, there is no buoyant second layer of big firms to fill the spaces left by mergers. The world firms, all Anglo-Saxon, have driven out many medium-sized players, notably in English-speaking countries. The merger may be aimed at servicing a few key multinationals, but Coopers has about 5,000 audit customers in the UK alone. To compete, medium-sized firms have had to specialise, for instance in owner-managed firms, travel or show business.

The combined CLPW would audit 30 per cent of America's Fortune 500 top companies. In

Britain, by historical accident, a bizarre situation would be created. CLPW would audit more than half the top hundred UK quoted companies. Realistically, such companies have only the other four to choose from. This is untenable. Competition authorities will surely insist on sharing that business around. Will UK partners vote for losing two in five of their top national clients? Possibly not.

Accountancy has become a complex monopoly because of the need to avoid conflicts of interest. In some deals, a potential client is lucky to have any choice of top accountant or solicitor. Another merger will make things worse. The UK authorities, directly or via Brussels, should be suspicious when fees are already far from modest.

The last thing we want is to stifle the development of accountancy, which is one of the UK's most

competitive sectors. Firms should, however, look to other ways to achieve their ends. One or two could cede a lot of routine national business to concentrate on big clients, though none might be brave enough to do this first. They could grow by adding local firms where that is still possible, by franchising their brand names or by using local firms as feeders for their global services. There could more effort to overcome barriers to combining with law firms and to amend the doctrine of joint and several liability, which leads to insolvency accountants suing other accountants for billions.

If capital is short, perhaps accountants should reconsider the partnership system more fundamentally. Short of converting to full company status, CL and PW might ponder that Goldman Sachs manages with fewer than 200 partners against their combined 8,500. Most of all, management consultants need to be more creative about their own affairs. Internal logic that falls foul of public realities is no logic at all.

## Firm behind \$10m liar's poker is dealt a \$9bn safer hand

Eric Reguly tells the story of the bank that returned from the edge of failure

The idea that Salomon Brothers would be one day be owned by an insurance company would have been laughable in the 1980s. Salomon was a fiercely independent operation, one that combined the raw energy and in-your-face aggression of Drexel Burnham Lambert, Mike Milken's legendary shop, with the respectability of Morgan Stanley. The combination produced the most powerful trading machine that Wall Street had ever seen. It was home to the "Big Swinging Dicks", immortalised by *Liar's Poker*, Michael Lewis's book about Salomon's rise and its often brutal culture.

Now it is owned by Travelers Group, a somewhat genteel financial services giant best known for selling life, property and casualty insurance and annuities. The takeover, paid for in Travelers shares, values Salomon at \$9 billion (£5.6 billion) and will vault Travelers, which also owns Smith Barney, a domestic American investment and brokerage firm, into the international financial big leagues.

In London alone, Salomon has 1,300 employees, equivalent to more than a fifth of its worldwide total, and Peter Middleton, the former monk who runs Salomon's European operations, has become one of the best-known bankers on the Continent.

Salomon lost much of its power and glamour in the early 1990s and its takeover began to seem inevitable. In the first half of the decade, it got clobbered by a US Treasury auction scandal, deep losses in its energy unit and bond trading operations, and wave after wave of defections. While Warren Buffett, America's best-known investor, used his financial resources and business savvy to stabilise the firm, he failed to restore it to its former glory.

Globalisation and the effort



Warren Buffett invested heavily in Salomon as he nursed the firm back to health after a financial scandal

to create full-service securities firms were the forces that ended its independence. The big three—Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley and Merrill Lynch—became bigger and more powerful in almost every area except fixed-income trading. A senior banker in Salomon's London office said: "We really didn't want to get taken over but we recognised that we were lagging behind in the race to create a full-service global bank. If we were going to be taken over by anyone, Travelers was the logical candidate."

Travelers' Smith Barney unit and Salomon appear to complement each other well. Smith Barney has virtually no presence outside the US; Salomon has considerable international reach, notably in Europe. Salomon has no retail distribution capabilities; Smith Barney does. Smith Barney has a strong presence in equities, municipal finance and asset management;

Salomon's strength is fixed-income trading. Although it is trying hard, Salomon is not considered a player in the equities market. Sandy Weill, chairman and chief executive of Travelers, said: "The complementary strengths of these two organisations, combined with the impressive talent of the people on both sides, will create a financially powerful and formidable competitor in virtually every facet of the securities business, in any region of the world."

The new group, to be called Salomon Smith Barney, will rank third in equity underwriting, second in US debt underwriting, first in municipal finance and fourth in mergers and acquisitions. The pro-forma balance sheet will have \$9 billion of equity, making it the second-largest securities firm by that measure, after Morgan Stanley.

The market reaction to the merger was immediately positive. IBCA, the London credit ratings agency, said the two firms were a natural fit and pointed out that the one area of concern "is the challenge the management will have in combining two firms with distinctly different cultures".

Indeed, Salomon is renowned for its risk-taking culture. Its greatest successes came from proprietary trading, the Wall Street argot for betting the ranch. Salomon was genetically programmed to gamble. *Liar's Poker* took its name from the high-stakes betting game played by Salomon's traders. John Gutfreund, Salomon's chairman during its heyday in the 1980s, raised the stakes to absurd levels in 1986, the year when Salomon reached the height of its power and arrogance. In what has since become a legendary challenge, he approached John Meriwether, one of the firm's star

traders, and said: "One hand, one million dollars, no tears." Meriwether's response: "No, John... ten million dollars, no tears."

Salomon was founded in 1910 by Arthur, Herbert and Percy Salomon as a money brokerage firm. During the First World War, it became a US government securities dealer and specialised in bond trading. This formed the bulk of its business until the late 1970s, when Gutfreund became managing partner. His first big move was a merger with Philbro Corp, an international oil and commodities trader. In the 1980s, Salomon made a fortune in mortgage-backed securities, a market it dominated, and turned an army of young traders into instant millionaires.

The good times, of course, could not last forever. The mortgage market eventually went into the tank and Salomon suffered losses in the 1987 stock market crash. Salomon

withdrew from the municipal bond and commercial paper market and made the mistake of entering the leveraged buyout game. Two buyouts that it backed, Southland and Revco, became spectacular bankruptcies. But the worst was yet to come.

In 1991, there was talk that Salomon was manipulating US Treasury auctions, a tightly regulated market that does not allow any one player to buy more than 35 per cent of an issue. Salomon was exceeding the limit through unauthorised bids; it bought 94 per cent of the May 1991 issue.

Complaints triggered a Securities and Exchange Commission investigation. Gutfreund resigned and Warren Buffett was installed as chairman to restore confidence. He appointed Robert Denham, a Texan who was one of his lawyers, and the British-born Deryck Maughan, as Salomon's top executives.

Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway group became Salomon's biggest investor and Buffett sold assets to keep Salomon afloat during the Treasury crisis. His efforts allowed Salomon to pull through, but the overhaul of a controversial bonus scheme, which had allowed top employees to earn more than \$20 million each when the firm was losing hundreds of millions, backfired. Morale sank and dozens of top managers and traders defected to rival firms. The resignations became so frequent that, by 1995, Salomon's very survival came into question.

In the end, Maughan was forced to modify the compensation plan. Stability returned and markets were booming. The next year, 1996, became the second best in the company's history, with net income of \$617 million.

Salomon's return from near death, of course, only made it a more attractive merger partner. Its main strength was still fixed-income trading and this alone would not ensure its success in the global securities market. Smith Barney and Salomon together will be a formidable force, but their merger marks the end of an era. It is hard to imagine games of *Liar's Poker* being played on the trading floor of a group controlled by an insurance company.

## For Joe Bloggs it isn't only in the jeans

Jon Ashworth considers the ability of Shami Ahmed to seize the moment

Richard Branson would approve. At 35, Shami Ahmed, the man behind the Joe Bloggs clothing label, has proved every bit as adept at seizing the marketing moment. He did it when Brian Lara hit 501 runs for Warwickshire, inviting a highly public spat with Levis. Now he has hit the headlines again, stepping in to "save" Elizabeth Emanuel, says he is most likely to be found these days enjoying a quiet meal at Harry's Bar.

Four years ago, he was more intent on grabbing headlines with products such as "the world's most expensive pair of jeans"—diamond-encrusted, and valued at more than £100,000.

Jeans were just the beginning. Joe Bloggs has expanded to embrace toiletries, soft drinks, women's wear, children's wear, sunglasses and even compilation albums. The group of companies has sales of more than £50 million. As with Richard Branson's Virgin, the growth is driven by licensing deals, taking Joe Bloggs as far afield as Japan and America. In the past three years, Ahmed has diversified into UK property, investing through a vehicle called The Legendary Property Company.

One of Ahmed's most successful moves was backing Brian Lara at the height of his cricketing fame. His plans for a "501" series of jeans and T-shirts resulted in a heated clash with Levis, which threatened legal action to protect their 501 label. Ahmed compromised by calling his label five hundred and one. The affair was later dismissed as a clever PR stunt. Buying Elizabeth Emanuel could prove his shrewdest move yet.

Fuelled by bands like the Stone Roses and Happy Mondays, "Madchester" set Ahmed

on his way. Today he is worth at least £30 million, and enjoys all the trappings, with a chauffeur-driven Bentley, a Rolls-Royce, a penthouse in Manchester and a home in London. He no longer wears a gold Rolex—once his trademark—but is still an occasional visitor to Tramp, the fashionable London nightclub.

Ahmed married in January, and says he is most likely to be found these days enjoying a quiet meal at Harry's Bar. Four years ago, he was more intent on grabbing headlines with products such as "the world's most expensive pair of jeans"—diamond-encrusted, and valued at more than £100,000.

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## Water works

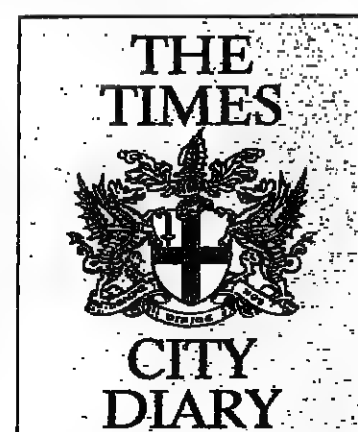
WHAT is the difference between a managing director and a chief executive? I am none the wiser after asking Thames Water, which yesterday announced the promotion of Bill Alexander from the former to the latter. Sir Robert Clarke used to be non-executive chairman, but became an executive chairman when the former chief executive, Mike Hoffman, was turfed out 18 months ago. This meant they didn't need a chief executive, except that now they do.



"Right, you. Who's this Joe Bloggs then?"

Because Clarke is retiring in 18 months, I think I have got that right. Perish the thought that the news was meant to draw attention away from the impending departure, at age 52, of another board member, Bill Harper. He has been concentrating on strategy and systems, and has done such a good job that he has strategised and systematised himself out of a job. Negotiations about a payoff are continuing.

I WAS chatting to a City type, best unnamed, a couple of days after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, when he let slip that a couple of clients were debating using this as the basis for profits warnings—and not just in retail. Hard to believe anyone would be so cynical, and I thought no more of it. Now Reg Vardy, the motor dealer that even sounds like a motor dealer, if you take my meaning, has blamed the Diana effect. Said my man in the sheepskin coat yesterday: "The death of Diana, Princess of Wales, had a marked impact on demand and as a result we suffered a decline in sales. Of motors, like. We anticipate however, that the shortfall can be made up over the coming weeks. So it ain't all bad, tragic though it is for us all, guv'nor. Do you a nice second-hand Ford Orion, eight thousand on the clock, one



driver, schoolmistress, only used it to go to church on Sundays."

### Swiss roll

HUGELY puzzling why one largely unknown Swiss-Swedish engineer should keep winning plaudits as the most respected company in Europe. ABB Asea Brown Boveri. Have you heard of it? Thought not. Yet it has won top slot in the latest in a string of opinion polls among chief executives across Europe from the Financial Times and Price Waterhouse. Four times in a row now. Don't ask me why. The other consistent performer has been Nestlé, which I still associate with Ernest Saunders and the Third World baby milk scandals of

the 1970s. But the Swiss chocolate box has had to share second place this time with British Petroleum. I ask my informant just why an obscure and, let's face it, dull company which splits its parentage, what is more, between the two dullest countries in Europe should keep winning. "There's an element of continuity about this thing," he says cynically. "Once you have established yourself as a respected company..."

THE annual Carnivores Club dinner at the Butchers' Hall, a joint celebration of meat eating between Groupe Céz, Gérard and Chester Boyd, is never short of a clever stunt to wave in front of the lettuce-eaters—last year they sent out pickled sheep, à la Damien Hurst, with the invites. This year's has run into a problem. Chester Boyd is Sir Roger Corke's company. There were plans to drive a couple of sheep across Tower Bridge, relying on his ancient right as Lord Mayor to do just that. A live bull will also feature at the dinner on October 16. But the farmers providing the sheep got cold feet. They were worried about the animals' safety.

### Shar-key

THE Hamilton Gallery in Mayfair yesterday hosted a party for the 50th birthday of John Sharkey. His career has taken in Saatchi & Saatchi, the Tory Party, an attempt to buy the Mirror Group and now the agency



Fromstein: long memory for man from Milwaukee

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# Flying the flag and wooing the investors



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**Best of Britain:** Concorde and a Spitfire fly over the white cliffs of Dover, which beckon overseas investors to set up businesses here.

ample, a Benelux country. But US construction toy manufacturers K'Nex has taken advantage of the Channel Tunnel to base its European assembly plant at Ashford in Kent.

burgh and Holiday Inns' in Amsterdam. Language skills are obviously critical, and the UK scores thanks to its many resident ethnic groups.

Theoretically these trends could free companies to locate themselves almost anywhere. But the fewer but cleverer employees are aware of their worth and capable of expressing preferences for living and working in attractive places which could mean fresh demands for city-centre locations well equipped to house smarter and more cost-effective, more intelligent, offices as well as for metropolitan living.

munications are proving increasingly vital in securing staff support. Metcalf planning underlies operations such as BT's decentralisation to strategically based National sites (for instance Stockley Park near Heathrow) and the Ministry of Defence Procurement Executive's recent reform relocation, moving more than 7,000 employees from 15 offices in London, the South Coast and Bath, to purpose-built HQ at Abingdon Wood, north of Bristol.

Soft issues are even more sensitive when it comes to international relocation of senior company executives. In fact, two investment in the region from the world's emerging markets are being supported by developments such as the link-up between Hamlyn Countrywide Relocation and Eastern European logistics experts Haykian Concepts, which is already working closely with Russian and other Eastern European companies targeting the EC.

# City gateway to the single market

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# Full steam ahead for new jobs for old

In Cornwall, workers at the old 200-year-old Redruth Brewery are making tiding, a rice-based Chinese lager under licence and are planning to export it to China.

In York the historic railway carriage works, which closed in 1995, will soon be employing 300 people making 2,500 freight wagons for the European market for the Chicago-based Thrall Car. In the spring, Hitachi announced a new company, based at Bolton, to provide practical solutions to Europe's tough exhaust regulations.

From beer to biochemicals, from motorcars to microchips, investment from overseas firms is booming in England and is set to outstrip even last year's record levels when foreign firms accounted for at least £5.5 billion in capital investment. In the first six months of this year, England gained 315 of the 426 UK inward investment projects, according to management consultants Ernst & Young.

The attractions include relatively low labour costs, combined with an improved productivity record and a "flexible" labour force. Language is also an important attraction. "Cultural factors have played a role in attracting American and Japanese investors, who have a greater affinity with the UK than with some of the continental countries," says Mr Rees.

England is particularly attractive for electronics, pharmaceuticals, the automobile industry, telecommunications and call centres and high-technology industry.

Many of the UK's 50 science parks are in England, with close links to universities. Mitsubishi Electric's decision to base its European research and development centre in England owed much to the presence of Surrey University,

**John Grigsby on the role culture plays in attracting investment**

## ENGLAND

where it is located. The Cambridge Science Park forms the nucleus of a cluster of 1,000 high technology firms in the area. Nigel Davis, managing director of Innovir, the US biochemical company, says that the firm was drawn to Cambridge "because of its proximity to cutting-edge science and technology."

The 19 English New Towns have played a significant part. More than 1,300 overseas firms have moved there, and with 4,670 acres earmarked for employment use, the Commission for the New Towns is energetically marketing sites abroad. Milton Keynes, for example, has attracted more than 50 Japanese firms without offering financial inducements.

The success of Cambridge, as well as much of southern England, has been achieved without the help of regional investment agencies. The East of England Agency only started operating in April and South East Regional Investments Ltd became the last in the network of ten English regional agencies at the beginning of this month.

York set up an inward investment board, funded by the city council and business, which negotiated with Thrall Car in what Paul Murphy, chief executive of the board, regards as the most significant inward investment from the US this year. "Thrall Car's

arrival has given the city a tremendous boost."

Locate in Kent, another council-business partnership, has helped five French firms to cross the Channel this year, and has 340 overseas-owned companies employing 29,500 people.

One of its attractions is Kings Hill, a mixed development business park near West Malling, which has attracted ten overseas companies. Day Runner International and Magna Interior Systems have also sited their European headquarters there.

The Northern Development Company is regarded as one of the most successful of the regional organisations, attracting to the North East over the decade 520 projects with a capital value of more than £8.8 billion, including Nissan, Siemens, Samsung and Fujitsu.

Ian Jones, deputy chief executive for Devon & Cornwall International, says: "When companies are coming from America and Europe, they look at the main centres of industry which are the Midlands, the North and around London. We have to work hard to persuade companies to look at our area."

"Once we get them here, they like what they see."



Tom Tutty, 67, a former rail worker at the York carriage works, celebrates the arrival of the Chicago-based Thrall Car at the old works site

## Business success means being in the right place at the right time.

### City gateway to the single market

#### LONDON

GOVERNMENT plans to give London a sharper profile for the millennium, with an elected mayor and assembly and a regional development agency, look sure of backing next May, following devolution successes in Scotland and Wales. *David Crawford writes.*

The new central focus for strategic planning and economic development, regeneration and integrated transport is also seen as a potential business benefit. "We look to the mayor to be a supersalesman or saleswoman for London at home and abroad," says Patrick Kerr of London First Centre (LFC), the capital's inward investment agency.

Last month, LFC announced its 100th new arrival in the shape of the American call centre teleservice operation ITC Group, which has its first UK base in Harrow. With 70 per cent of completed projects hailing from North America, the common thread, said centre chairman Sir Col. Marshall in welcoming ITC, is that "London is their professional gateway to the European single market."

Analysis of LFC results shows that more than half the 33 London boroughs have benefited from new investments secured and existing ones safeguarded. This has demonstrated the centre's ability to work beyond the

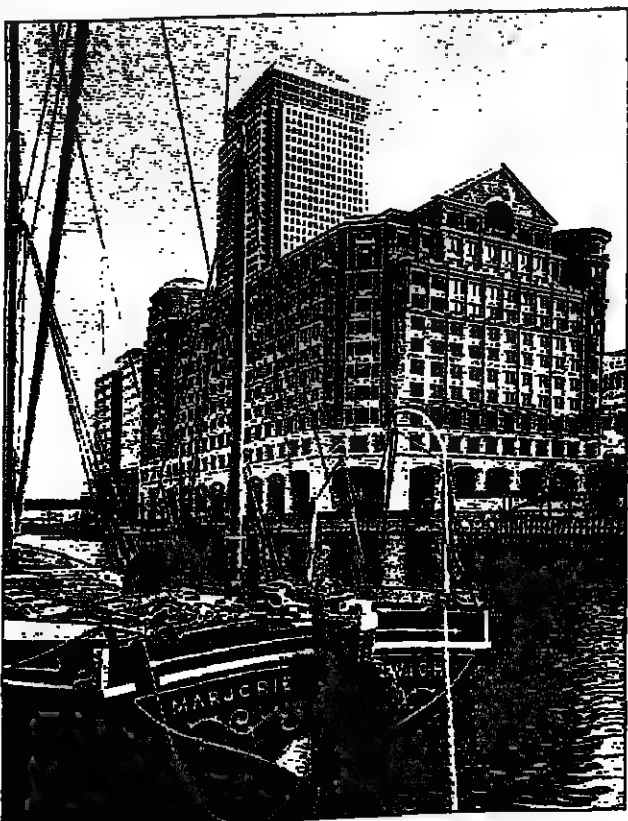
boundaries of its founding sponsors of Westminster, the City and Docklands.

Judith Mayhew, chair of the City Corporation's policy and resources committee, says: "Our strength is the clustering of primary financial markets and supporting professional services, which no other global centre can match."

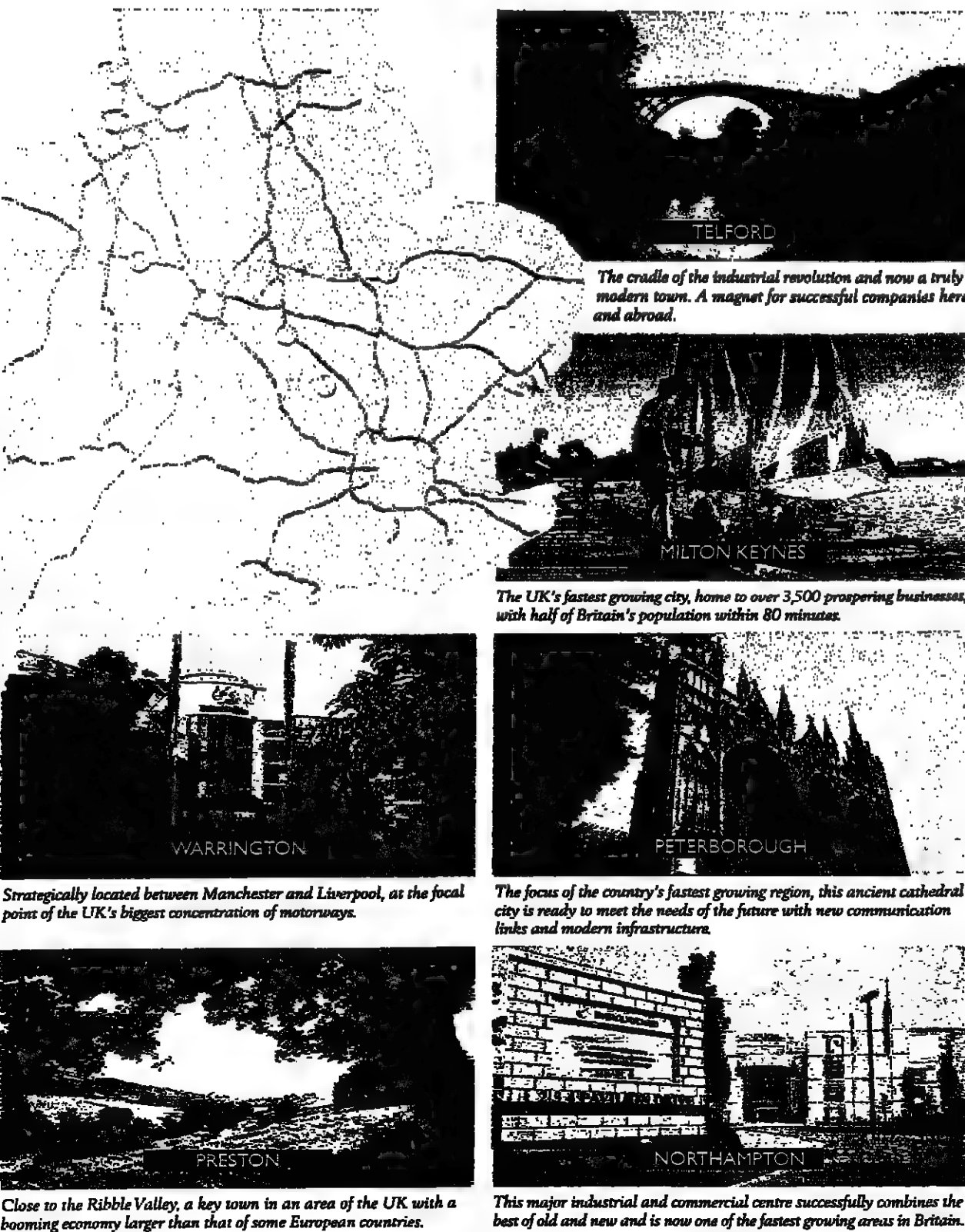
The City is defending its role as a global financial centre with initiatives such as the Corporation of London Economic Development Unit, set up to implement its first-ever economic development strategy, and CEENET. Formed in 1995, initially to target Central and Eastern Europe, CEENET has now widened its remit to encouraging financial practitioners from all the world's economic growth zones to open City offices.

With sites enjoying planning consent for a record 1.5 million square metres of offices, deputy City Surveyor Peter Bennett is confident that the City can accommodate new investors.

Docklands is one of several centres highlighting London's eastern corridor. The Thames Gateway Partnership is focusing attention along a line leading from the City to new economic nodes like Chatham Maritime and emphasising locations such as Thamesmead.



Canary Wharf in Docklands: landmark of city investment



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## Equities close at best of day

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1997 Low Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES				
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5

1997 Low Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
BANKS				
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5

1997 Low Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
BREWERY, PUBS & REST				
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5

1997 Low Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
BUILDING & CONSTRUCT				
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5

1997 Low Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
BUILDING MATERIALS				
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5

1997 Low Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
CHEMICALS				
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5

1997 Low Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
DISTRIBUTORS				
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5

1997 Low Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
ENGINEERING				
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5

1997 Low Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
ENGINEERING, VEHICLES				
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5

1997 Low Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
LEISURE & HOTELS				
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
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1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5

1997 Low Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
FOOD MANUFACTURERS				
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5

1997 Low Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
HEALTHCARE				
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5

1997 Low Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
HOUSEHOLD GOODS				
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5

1997 Low Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
INSURANCE				
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5

1997 Low Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
INVESTMENT TRUSTS				
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5

1997 Low Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
MINING				
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5

1997 Low Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
PROPERTY				
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5

1997 Low Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
RETAILERS, FOOD				
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5

1997 Low Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
RETAILERS, GENERAL				
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5

1997 Low Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
OTHER FINANCIAL				
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5

1997 Low Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
MEDIA				
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5

1997 Low Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
PHARMACEUTICALS				
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5

1997 Low Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
PRINTING & PAPER				
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5

1997 Low Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
PROPERTY				
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5

1997 Low Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
TELECOMMUNICATIONS				
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5

1997 Low Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
TEXTILES & APPAREL				
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5
1997 100% Pure Malt	1.00	0.02	2.0	12.5

## THE TIMES Portfolio

£2,000 to be won

Check the numbers on your Portfolio card and find your eight stocks in the Portfolio panel below. In the column provided next to your eight shares enter the share movements as published on this page. Ignore fractions. Enter 100 as 10 (the symbol means no change). After listing the price changes of your eight shares, add them up to find your total which can be plus or minus. If your overall total matches exactly the points provided for the daily dividend you win or share the £2,000 daily prize.

No	Company	Group	Gain/Loss
1	Halifax	Banks	
2	Grain Processing	Grain	
3	Grain Processing	Grain	
4	Grain Processing	Grain	
5	Grain Processing	Grain	
6	Grain Processing	Grain	
7	Grain Processing	Grain	
8	Grain Processing	Grain	

## Portfolio

Daily Dividend

+38

Claims required for +38 pts

Claims should rise

between 9.30am-3pm

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals

in the table below and

published in the Sunday Times to win

£10,000

Weekly accumulator total

Two winners shared the prize

yesterday, each receiving £10,000

They also received a share of

£10,000

Share, York







At the Toronto Film Festival, Geoff Brown watches the big distributors fight to sign up the youthful prizewinners

# Moguls tie up surprise packages

Life can be hard for press and industry folk attending the Toronto International Film Festival. Before a screening you queue to sign in. You queue to get your cinema admission ticket. Then you queue to penetrate the auditorium, where the previous film is running over. The film you have come to see finally over, you may have to race uptown to a different venue — and perform the same ritual.

None of this stopped the throngs doing business at this teeming, essential event: catching up on the state of world cinema, buying and selling, or simply schmoozing. More money changed hands at this year's festival — the 22nd — than at any other.

## The adult film business provided the biggest discovery

Thom Fitzgerald, a young filmmaker from Nova Scotia, found himself the toast of the town with his quirky first feature *The Hanging Garden*: everyone liked it, and MGM bought it for American distribution. Another new talent, Trey Parker, signed on the dotted line for a multi-picture distribution deal with October Films, all because of *Orgazmo*, a wild comedy about a Mormon actor who finds fame and chaos as a porno movie superhero.

The adult entertainment business also provided Toronto with its biggest discovery, Paul Thomas Anderson's *Boogie Nights*, a dynamic look at Los Angeles's porn scene in the late 1970s and 1980s. Anderson's previous feature, *Hard Eight* (due soon in Britain), never suggested a talent bold enough to mount a two-and-a-half hour epic teeming with characters, swirling with camera movements, crowded with volatile emotions.

We follow the fortunes of the film-making family of porn movie director Jack Horner (played by Burt Reynolds: his best role for a long time). An amiable lad (Mark Wahlberg) becomes his new star, Dirk Diggler by name. Dirk gets sucked into drugs and partying, and grows an enormous ego. Decline and fall follow: he becomes a hustler and petty crook, while Horner continues to deliver the goods into the age of video.

This is not the only story told: Anderson weaves in almost as many lives as Robert Altman in *The Player* or *Short Cuts*. Sometimes his ambition gets the better of his skills, but he never misjudges the tone. Lubricious gazing at flesh is avoided; so is high censoriousness. To Anderson these people are flawed people like any others, in need of love, support, and our understanding. The assembled media voted *Boogie Nights* the festival's joint best film, together with Curtis Hanson's *L.A. Confidential*.

Life in Toronto was not all porn and naughtiness. There were no jobtraps in *Washington Square* or *The Wings of the Dove* or *Mrs Dalloway*, three of the prestigious literary adaptations newly rolled off the assembly line. Agnieszka Holland's version of *Washington Square* makes a particular fetish of clothes and props. An army of set dressers fill the screen with mantlepiece finery, carpets, handbags, gurgling fountains, carriages and prams. Jerzy Zielinski's sunny photography makes New York in the 1880s look like heaven on earth.

But where did all this leave Henry James? Suffocated. The script played its part: no matter how game Jennifer Jason Leigh, Albert Finney and Ben Chaplin were, Carol Doyle's adaptation kept choking the ironies in James's story of a plain young woman trapped between the conflicting demands of a domineering father and a seductive suitor.

James's plot, however, is still robust enough to collar most of our attention. This was not so in *The Wings of the Dove*, where the intricate material demanded a more penetrating, less modernised treatment from Iain Softley, the director of *Backbeat*. Helena Bonham Carter stars as the aristocratic English heroine who needs to accommodate her love for an ordinary journalist (Linus Roache). She looks lovely, and so does Venice; but this is nothing new.

*Mrs Dalloway*, from Marleen Gorris, the Dutch director of *Antonia's Line*, presented an even more striking



Vanessa Redgrave as Virginia Woolf's *Mrs Dalloway*, one of several adaptations of classic novels shown at Toronto

ing spectacle of a novel reshaped with inappropriate tools. How can images, shot and cut in traditional ways, begin to penetrate the inner thoughts of a Virginia Woolf heroine? Only good comes from Vanessa Redgrave playing *Mrs Dalloway*, an MP's

wife who muses on times past and missed opportunities; but we still stand outside the drama for a long time. Films like these made Michael Haneke's *The Castle*, from Austria, all the more distinctive. The usual glue and stuffing of literary cinema is

removed. Where Welles went into baroque overdrive adapting Kafka in *The Trial*, Haneke goes for Brechtian distancing. The camera stays level, the tone flat, the scenes bluntly curtailed by black frames. By refusing to underline K's struggle to perform his

work as castle surveyor, Haneke makes the absurdities seem extra chilling. Luckily, other film-makers stayed away from famous books and wrote original scripts; you would expect nothing less from Hal Hartley or John Sayles. Hartley's *Henry*

Fool stretches thin material beyond sensible limits, although the director at least breaks ground by going all whimsical and reaching beyond his usual constituents. The title belongs to an egocentric ex-convict who shakes up life in a drab New Jersey suburb, and helps to turn a taciturn garbage man into a controversial poet. Carefully modulated performances, terse and crazy dialogue provide pleasure and, if the film helps Hartley to break out of his enclosed world, maybe the dull spots are worth suffering.

Sayles's new film, *Men With Guns*, is typically adventurous: who else would ignore commercial dictates and take the time and patience to fashion a Spanish-language film probing the Latin American experience? Two American tourists flit through to mainly comic effect. But Sayles's focus stays tight on Federico Luppi's Fuenfies, a doctor trying to trace his medical students in the remote jungles of an unspecified country where human rights are routinely violated. The film is brave and intelligent, although it remains the kind of film easier to admire than enjoy.

And where was Canada itself in all this hoopla? Winnipeg eccentric Guy Maddin disappointed fans with *The Twilight of the Ice Nymphs*, a less than hypnotic trip to his patented realm of mythic twaddle, with a cast including Shelley Duvall and numerous ostriches decorated with ribbons. Gary Burns, documenter of Canadian slackers, made a small impact with *Kitchen Party*.

But it was Fitzgerald's *The Hanging Garden* that buttonholed most observers; it won the Air Canada People's Choice Award, voted for by audiences. Fitzgerald's shooting manner is not the most elegant: he rams the camera too close to his actors and does not let images breathe. His material, though, is fresh and personal. Past and present, fact and fantasy, interweave.

An overweight teenager, oppressed at home, appears to hang himself. But returns for his sister's wedding as a slim, gay man of 25. Exuberantly styled, drenched with floral imagery and pounding music, this is the kind of film that renews one's faith not only in life, but also in film festivals.

## NEW ON VIDEO

**THE ENGLISH PATIENT**  
Buena Vista, 15, 1996  
WILL repeated home viewers reveal extra subtleties to Anthony Minghella's Oscar-laden adaptation of Michael Ondaatje's complex novel of love, loyalty and national identity among the shifting sands of the Second World War? I suspect not, Geoff Brown writes, but it will certainly cramp the epic landscapes of desert sculpted by sun and shadow. Ralph Fiennes is aloof as the "English" patient charred in the war, who earlier conceived a grand passion for Kristin Scott Thomas's reckless aristocrat.

**ANGEL OF VENGEANCE**  
Warner, 19, 1997  
THE second film of Abel Ferrara, bad boy of American cinema, follows the footsteps of a mousy, dumb seamstress once she is mugged and raped. Her next attacker is slain with an iron and chopped into pieces. She then uses his gun to take aim at any threatening male. Ferrara's dark humour and sharp eye uplift an exploitation movie into something unsettling and stylish. Part of a new series called "Maverick Directors", and a video premiere.

**BLOOD AND WINE**  
Fox Guild, 18, 1996  
WINE merchant Jack Nicholson enlists Michael Caine's wheezing safecracker to steal a client's necklace. Director Bob Rafelson lavishes attention on the texture of scenes and the light they shine on tortured relationships. Result: a pot-boiler with pretensions. Available to rent.

**MAMMA ROMA**  
Connoisseur, 15, 1992  
MAMMA mia, it's Anna Magnani, one of Italy's most overwhelming actresses, who almost sets fire to the screen as the prostitute who strives to escape from her pimp. Pasolini's second film has rough edges and spoonfuls of melodrama, but the director's sensitivity to social texture and the splendours and miseries of ordinary life still make it a compelling experience.

**PORTRAIT OF A LADY**  
PolyGram, 12, 1996  
JANE CAMPION's stylised adaptation of Henry James's novel, with Nicole Kidman tightly controlled as the independent American sucked into a marriage in Europe with a dilettante artist (John Malkovich, all quirks flying). The film seems frozen in time and feeling, adrift from its audience. Available to rent.

## ACCOUNTANCY

# The search for critical mass

As Coopers and Price Waterhouse prepare for merger, Nick Land forecasts a period of uncertainty

After the announcement of the proposed Coopers & Lybrand-Price Waterhouse merger one thing is certain and that is that the world's airlines will prosper as members of the international management groups of each of the Big Six travel around the world discussing the main questions: will this merger go through; will the partners or regulators seek to stop it; will other mergers be attempted; will the regulators allow them and what should be each firm's individual response?

There has been pressure on all of us to meet increasing demands from multinational clients, many of whom are managing their businesses on a more global basis and are thus looking to the Big Six for an increasingly global service. Against this background all of the Big Six have areas in the world or service or industry sectors where they would like to be stronger. The C&L/PW merger is being driven by a wish to strengthen their practices in areas where they believe they are relatively weak and to some extent to spread the rising cost of investment.

Of course, size isn't everything. The ability to provide an excellent and seamless service has more to do with culture and the way in which resources are deployed to get the best results for the client and a merger of two large organisations does not necessarily make that easier. But to service today's major multinational clients you do need critical mass and, if you lack it, one of the fastest ways of achieving this, although not necessarily the only or best way, is by merger.

There is inevitably much talk of further mergers between the remaining firms that will be examining this option. But there are other options available and one shouldn't assume that mergers will automatically follow. For example, a firm that has achieved high organic growth could be confident in its ability to continue to prosper without taking any big steps, calculating that through a stable culture and a clear focus they will move ahead, perhaps aided by picking up some pieces from the inevitable fallout from the C&L-PW merger. There are also possibilities of alliances or mergers outside the Big Six with, for example, strategy houses, hardware suppliers, software developers or investment banks, as a way of



Firms are changing to meet global demands, says Nick Land

developing service capability. If not handled skillfully and with determination a merger can take up a lot of management time. It leads inevitably to a period of introspection that can result in the market moving on and competitors

overtaking. Then there are hurdles to clear. Will this mega-merger be allowed by the regulators, not only here but also in other places such as the US, the EU, Canada and Australia? In the UK the combined firm would audit around 50

per cent of the FTSE 100 and 40 per cent of the FTSE 350. Consideration needs to be given to the public interest. The merger could lead to a drop in choice and to major conflicts of interest, particularly in corporate finance and insolvency. Would another merger and further market concentration be allowed?

Mergers have to be agreed by the majority of partners around the world. There are great strengths in the partnership structure which is peculiarly suited to professional service organisations such as ours but, in major matters such as mergers, the partners as "working shareholders" will have to be convinced that is a good thing. And the position will be very different in each country with inevitable clashes, leading to one or more national firms not joining the international merger.

No matter how good the fit in respect of service capabilities and geographical spread, the greatest challenge is making the cultures fit and blend as quickly as possible. This is the most uncomfortable phase and it can be hard to hang on to your star performers through this period.

The Big Six are going through a period of uncertainty during which the only thing we can be confident about is that the airlines will benefit.

Nick Land is senior partner at Ernst & Young.

# Well partners, it's all up to you now

DROP into any branch of Coopers & Lybrand and have a rifle through the brochures and leaflets on display. After a while you will find the one which, since the news of the proposed merger with Price Waterhouse broke, is the key booklet. It is called *Merger Integration - Delivering the Benefits*. And presumably Coopers staff, who probably never give the brochures in reception a second glance, have been avidly reading it over the past week to see what lies ahead.

The first paragraph does not inspire confidence. "Mergers and acquisitions all too often fail to achieve business expectations," it says. "Research by Coopers & Lybrand suggests that as many as half of all such transactions are judged as failures by managers." Even if you discount the hype embedded in any document aimed at prospective clients, that does suggest that Coopers and Price Waterhouse have problems on their hands. The next section makes it worse. Under "management attitudes and culture" they quote a manager from their research. "The management culture was totally different," he said. "We take decisions quickly. They spend weeks in committees arguing over what should be done." That sounds very much like accountancy firms.

It is always surprising that mergers are most often suggested by those companies or firms that are the worst managed. The last two decades of accountancy mergers are littered with cases where two appallingly managed firms have decided that things could only get better if they combined their lack of expertise and hoped that something might change.

That is not quite so true of Coopers and Price Waterhouse but certainly the firms have developed an unfortunate reputation over the past few years of being two of the most poorly managed out of the UK Big Six firms. It is not obvious how the coming months are going to bring forth a tightly focused and dynamic force. This is complicated by the nature of partnerships. Take a look at the central part of the Coopers merger booklet. This is headed "Understanding the Real Value Drivers." "In the thrill of doing the deal," it says, "it is easy to lose sight of the primary goal — increasing shareholder value. If the merged business is to be more than the sum of its parts then the two organisations need to leverage each other's capabilities to create added value."

That sort of thing may work in a corporate environment. Shareholders are useful as an outside and motivating force with an easy benchmark in the share price. In partnerships the managers are the shareholders.

So it is small wonder that many finance directors produced an initial kneejerk reaction to the merger proposal and argued that they would have less choice and the accountants were only doing it to protect their earnings. Well, of course, they want to protect their earnings. But they can only do that by offering greater efficiency and better service.

In theory what happens is that the mega-firm produced by the merger could tackle the greatest and escalating cost facing any organisation in the professional services field. And that is information technology. There were hands thrown in the air that Price Waterhouse partners heard the news via their Lotus Notes system. The reason that the Coopers partners didn't suffer the same fate is that they are still struggling to create such a system. The costs are phenomenal. But the savings and efficiencies are greater. The greatest final value to the merged firm would be that the ability of one firm of 8,500 partners to invest in such systems would be way beyond the two firms' current abilities.

This is also why the two firms are attempting to create a proper global structure, and run the final firm that way. All the accounting firms have long argued in their client brochures that they are "truly global" and in the sense that they have offices in Timbuktu as well as Tokyo they are. But they are not structures. For example, the original plans for Price Waterhouse in the UK to build a truly effective European firm were scuppered some years ago when the US firm, in response to some slight or other, refused to subscribe the cash requested. By going for a proper global structure from day one the new firm might avoid all the faults which are obvious in all the other of the Big Six firms' supposedly global capabilities.

But in the end it is all about new services. Audit is a tiny part of the firm's business world now. Arguments about competition based on audit reach are outdated. This proposed merger has two issues — the explosive growth of a huge range of professional services and whether partners will vote it through. It is, as the Coopers brochure concludes, about "mobilising teams to deliver the benefits".



ROBERT BRUCE

## Driving force behind e-mails

ALL the hype being hurled around about the proposed merger between Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand stresses global communication. So spare a thought for the chairman and chief executive of Coopers in China. He is John Sturtard and is currently ensconced in a pink Rolls-Royce taking part in the Beijing to Paris Rally. The first he heard about the merger was over the fax as he rattled through Tibet. This

## Source to tap

IF ACCOUNTING standard-setters round the world do get together there will be great cultural differences to iron

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

out. Take openness, for example. Neither of the UK-based bodies, the International Accounting Standards Committee nor the Accounting Standards Board, throws its meetings open to the public. But all this may be about to change. The US body, the Financial Accounting Standards Board, operates in open session. And it also provides phone links so that someone interested in hearing a debate on derivatives but who has to

be in Los Angeles that day can listen in to what is going on in Norwalk, Connecticut. It is the idea of phone links that interests the UK bodies. They have discovered that FASB charges premium rates. Suddenly they can see all their funding problems evaporating.

## Brass tax

JUST as the chaos of self-assessment boils up to a rather artificial deadline of the end of

September the Chartered Institute of Taxation has pulled off a masterstroke. One of the problems faced by taxpayers who have never employed a tax adviser is that there is no easy way of judging whether the adviser advertising in the local paper is likely to come up to scratch. But as of this week it becomes easier. The institute received its Royal Charter in 1994 and this week the Privy Council has allowed members to call themselves Chartered Tax Advisers. It will look very good on a brass plate.

ROBERT BRUCE

THE TIMES

Intellig

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WINNER OF...  
★★★★★  
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★★★★★  
"HUMANE, RESPECTFUL AND EXTREMELY MOVING"  
★★★★★  
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Lady in the dark: Jodie Foster plunges into the unknown in *Contact*. Robert Zemeckis's journey through close encounters beyond the Milky Way

## Intelligent life in sci-fi?

**W**e have seen so much science-fiction silliness up on the big screen that it comes as quite a shock to watch *Contact*. There she stands, Jodie Foster, trying to get funding to continue her surveillance of intelligent life in space. "The aloneness of humans," she says. "A profoundly impactful moment in the history of history." Big words, big thoughts: *Contact* is full of them, rather than the rinky-dink dialogue of comic strips. Images, too, are equally grand. The opening minutes take us on a dizzying tour of the cosmos. Planets shoot past, awesomely beautiful, as a sound collage embraces the 20th-century American experience, from rock music to the speeches of FDR.

**NEW MOVIES: It's true, says Geoff Brown. *Contact* offers food for thought as well as intergalactic hokum**

Directed by Robert Zemeckis from the novel by Carl Sagan, *Contact* also boasts strong characters. We begin with Foster as a child: a star-gazing girl who loses her father when she is nine and begins a quest to understand the universe's mysteries. As an adult she is a force to reckon with: impassioned, obstinate, self-possessed, ready to spend day upon day waiting for satellites to pick up messages from outer space.

Finally one comes, from a distant star, Vega. Included in the transmission is a building kit for an intergalactic travel machine, known as the Pod. Should Earth go ahead, and make contact? And who should be the one to journey into deep space to shake hands with the unknown? Jodie wants to go, of course, but Tom Skerritt, her former mentor, pushes his way forward. And how does America's military might react? James Woods is the National Security Advisor, and since the first image transmitted from Vega is of Hitler addressing the Berlin Olympics, he has good reason to be wary.

For over half the running time, Zemeckis explores all these questions with verve and wit, though there are warning signs of hiccups ahead. One is Matthew McConaughey's character who serves, clumsily, as New Age religious spokesman and vague male romantic interest, something which Jodie has no use for. Another is the residue from *Forrest Gump*, Zemeckis's last movie: little bits of manipulated news footage bringing President Clinton into play. These make the film less believable, not more.

**Contact**  
Warner West End, PG, 150 mins  
Sci-fi romp for the thinking audience  
**The Sweet Hereafter**  
Curzon Mayfair, 15, 110 mins  
Atom Egoyan learns how to feel  
**Face**  
Empire, 18, 100 mins  
British thriller with more noise than substance  
**The Leading Man**  
Warner West End, 15, 96 mins  
Jon Bon Jovi fails to please

By the end, *Contact* has developed schizophrenia. Part of the movie means to be meaningful. Another part wants to play games and spin hokum, much of it linked to John Hurt's character, a bald eccentric billionaire.

Yet even if silliness becomes a factor after all, *Contact* is never dull or shoddy. Jodie Foster is excellent, perfectly cast, and special effects are smoothly integrated: outer space has rarely looked so lovely and alluring.

"An intelligent epic full of genuine wonder and excitement simply not to be missed."

★★★★★  
Quentin Felt, SUNDAY MIRROR

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# We'll rock till we roll over

The return of the Rolling Stones, with a new album and tour, is an event which prompts — in the words of one of their own songs — mixed emotions. Among many pundits and middle-aged folk who have had an enthusiasm for rock music, there is a chorus of weary disbelief. Surely they cannot still be peddling that same old renegade image, still pretending they can compete with the new young bands of today. Who do they think they are kidding? But for the millions of people who still go out and buy their records and see their shows there is a feeling of immense warmth towards the Stones for their music, and admiration for their continuing vitality, in defiance of all rational expectations.

The latter mood was clearly prevalent on Tuesday among the 50,000-strong crowd which gathered in Soldier Field stadium in Chicago, on the opening night of the group's *Bridges to Babylon* tour, yet another gruelling itinerary of huge venues already stretching into February 1998 and tentatively scheduled to reach Britain next summer. "Either we'll die in the attempt or it'll be fantastic," Keith Richards predicted earlier in the month.

In the event the first outing turned out to be a competent if not altogether inspired presentation which focused squarely on the group's astounding legacy of hits. "It would be foolish to start the tour by playing half a set of new songs," Mick Jagger said when they were preparing the show pointing out that it takes a long time, particularly in America, for new songs to become familiar and also that the album itself is not released until next Monday.

Arriving on a stage decorated with silver drapes, two 18-foot-high gold figurines, a big circular video screen and golden honeycombs of speakers, the band started with *Satisfaction* usually a number reserved for the encores, and followed on with a string of singularly ancient favourites including *It's Only Rock'n'Roll*, *Bitch*, *Let's Spend the Night Together* and the rarely played *19th Nervous Break-*

**David Sinclair  
sees the Rolling  
Stones launch  
their new world  
tour in Chicago**

down. The only new songs were a rather shaky version of their current single, *Anybody Seen My Baby?*, and a splendidly dramatic *Out of Control* during which Jagger twisted his extraordinarily skinny frame into a series of frantic contortions.

Visitors to the Stones website had earlier been invited to vote for one song to be included in the set and there was a huge cheer as Jagger accessed the site on the big screen to reveal the people's choice: *Under My Thumb*. Adopting a trick used in the past by U2, Bon Jovi and AC/DC, the band decamped to a tiny stage in the middle of the crowd for a "back to the roots" sequence of *Little Queenie*, *Let It Be* and *The Last Time*. They returned to the main stage for another broadside of old hits including *Start Me Up*, *Brown Sugar* and the inevitable *Jumpin' Jack Flash*.

There were the usual fireworks, inflatables, smoke bombs and a massive shower of confetti that engulfed most of the stadium during *You Can't Always Get What You Want*. But some of the performances sounded a little rusty and after the unprecedented splendour of the 1994-95 *Voodoo Lounge* tour there was a slight but persistent sense of retrenchment in the stage design and lighting departments. Even so it was an entertainment which very few groups, of any age, could rival.

Still the vexed question remains. Do the Stones have any contemporary relevance or are they an anachronistic burlesque? If their live show relied heavily on past glories, their album, *Bridges to Babylon*, is a tremendous collection of new songs, some of them on a par with the best in their back catalogue. The opening track, *Flip the Switch*, is an absolute

belter with a macabre lyric sung from the viewpoint of a convict on death row urging his jailer to go ahead and flip the switch: "I'm not going to burn in hell/I cased the joint and I know it well."

*Low Down* is an amazing riff somewhat in the *Start Me Up* vein that stretches out and then snaps into shape like a bow string being pulled and released. If Richards is on rare form then Jagger's voice is also as powerful as it has ever been, ranging from a delicate sob to a bullish roar on the eloquent rocker *Saint of Me* and the forlorn ballad *Already Over Me*. It is an album that gives the lie to the pernicious idea that the Stones' music must be out of date because they are no longer in the first flush of youth.

The secret of their success, and to some extent the key to the Stones' longevity, lies in the unique creative tension between Jagger and Richards. "Mick is much more commercially minded than me. I'm sick to death of phoney sounds," Richards says, hinting at his reluctance to embrace the modern techniques employed on the album by guest producers Danny Saber and the Dust Brothers.

But Jagger is equally reluctant to go on making records in the same way as the Stones always have done, insisting before recording began that: "We should think about the way the songs are written, the subject material, the noises, the grooves; anything to make sure it sounds a bit different from previous Stones albums." The result is a fine balance of mild innovation firmly rooted within a timeless rock'n'roll tradition.

Yes, the Stones have grown old. But although rich and successful beyond belief, there is still a calculated air of barbarism about them, and a delinquent energy which saves their music from turning into the drab middle-aged pop of contemporaries such as Rod Stewart and Paul McCartney. That they have failed to grow old "gracefully", let alone fade away quietly, may not fit in with certain preconceptions. But it is surely our great gain.



Mick Jagger sings to the Chicago crowd: "It was an entertainment which very few groups, of any age, could rival"

## Still top of the populists

THE Levellers are purveyors of doughty folk rock, bristling with political anger and bolstered by choruses of heroic defiance. It is a formula that has earned them little critical acclaim, but an army of fans.

The Levellers are, though, not just a band: they are an enterprise. They have invested their wealth in a community centre and studio in their home town of Brighton. This venture, like the Levellers' success generally, has rested on an astute mixture of political principle and populism.

This astuteness is also evident in the music. With *Mouth to Mouth*, their fifth and latest album, there are signs of a change of policy. The traditional sounds of the previous order are giving way to sampling, strings and pedal

**The Levellers**  
UEA, Norwich

steel. Like the Labour Party, Old Leveller is being ousted by New Leveller.

But while these competing pulls are very evident on record, their stage show remains largely unaffected. The Levellers continue to rely on the familiar line-up of guitars, bass, drums and violin, so that their dabbling with dance culture blends easily with their fiddle-led hoe-downs. *Too Real* may begin with rumbling bass and paranoid squawks, but it is not long before a chirpy chorus is infiltrated into the mix. And it is those choruses that drive the show, especially on *15 Years*, *What a Beautiful Day* and *Celebrate*, their new single.

Not are there any signs of the change of image. Lead singer Mark Chadwick still resembles Martin Shaw in *The Professionals*, bass player Jeremy Cunningham bounces and twists, his dreadlocks flailing wildly. The rest of the band — Jon Sevin on violin, Charlie Heather on drums and Simon Friend on guitar — seem equally averse to the temptation of designer labels.

The Levellers may not write classic tunes, or in Chadwick have the most powerful of singers, but they have the knack of selling a song and working a crowd in the old folk tradition.

JOHN STREET

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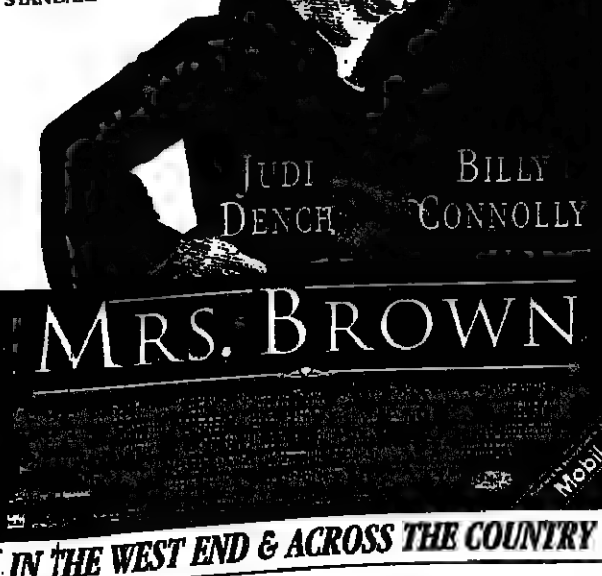
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IN THE WEST END & ACROSS THE COUNTRY

## Begun in style

THE London Symphony Orchestra and Sir Colin Davis began the season on excellent form with a glance back to one of the works they have played most frequently of late and a look towards future repertory. Beethoven's Violin Concerto, which has showcased several soloists recently, brought Midori and the LSO together here, and Walton's First Symphony whetted the appetite for the excursions into English music that Davis is promising, while also setting a standard for Walton and Vaughan Williams concerts this autumn.

In the Beethoven bold playing from every department of the orchestra, supported sonorously by no fewer than ten cellos and ten basses, was matched by the soloist, Midori. Her tone is bright and silvery at the top, metallic lower down, and very distinctive because of her fearless attack: perhaps it was even too hard at times in the slow movement. She is a highly expressive musician who pays meticulous attention to dynamics, but there was nothing calculating about this performance.

THERE are several good reasons for introducing *Duke Bluebeard's Castle* with a popular tone poem by Richard Strauss — not the least of them being that a concert performance of a one-act opera is scarcely likely to attract a full house to the new season in Symphony Hall. Another, even better reason is that without Strauss's example Bartók's score could not have achieved the pictorial brilliance which so aptly and so crucially illuminates the emotional gloom.

But with Strauss's *Don Juan* readily available as a not entirely jocular examination of a related theme, *Till Eulenspiegel* seemed an oddly insensitive choice: an irresistible invitation not to take things seriously. To precede that with Mozart's Prague Symphony, however beautifully played, was overloading the programme and adding to the incongruity.

Not that Sir Simon Rattle and his colleagues approached *Bluebeard* with anything less than seriousness. Indeed, they were serious enough to include the spoken prologue which

**CONCERTS**  
LSO/Davis  
Barbican

manoeuvres the central episode of the finale had wonderful rhapsodic freedom, and she romped through the cadenzas with spontaneity.

Any worries that Davis, 70 today, is getting more stately in his conducting might have been confirmed by the excessively broad tempo he set at the opening, but they were swept aside by his surging account of the Walton. The pulsating rhythms of the first movement were quick to erupt at the brassy climaxes, and even in the busiest moments Davis kept the playing taut. The incisive brass section excelled itself here, and again in the mocking accents of the Scherzo. With its desolate Andante and nervy fanfares, Walton's masterpiece can be quite unsettling, but performed like this it made a reassuring start to the season.

JOHN ALLISON

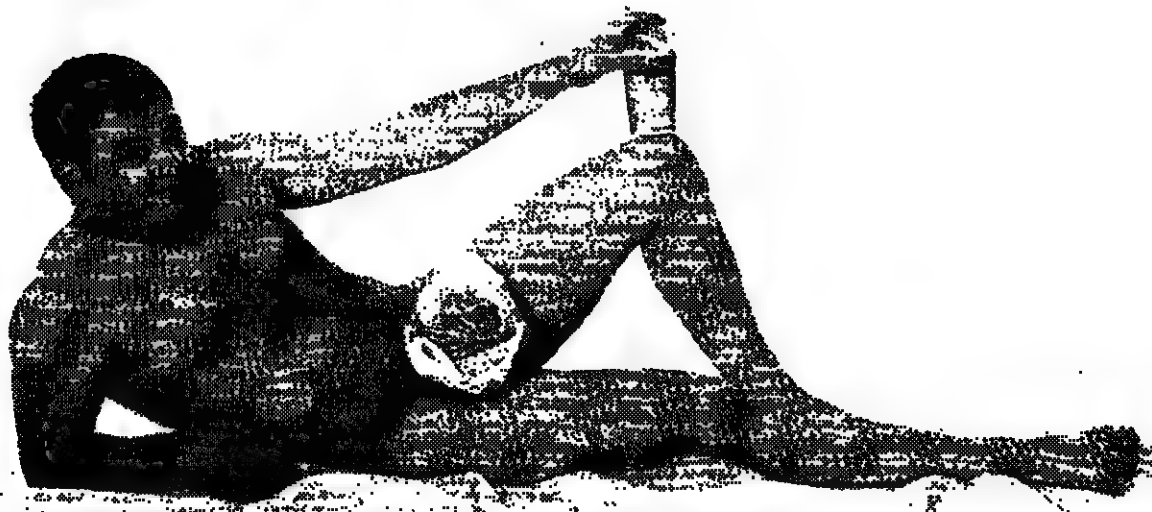
**CSO/Rattle**  
Birmingham

is nowadays better omitted. Kristine Ciesinski's Judith was not so much serious as severe. There must be love as well as determination in her efforts to let the light in on her husband's dark secrets. Both she and John Tomlinson as an impressively solid and apparently immovable Bluebeard coped well with the Hungarian but, in spite of their protestations to the contrary, there was no relationship between them.

The most valuable aspect of the performance (which is to be repeated in Symphony Hall tonight) was Simon Rattle's compulsion to have his orchestra distinguish minutely and uncompromisingly between the shades of darkness in the Bluebeard psyche. They were not in the least grudging in their celebration of the virility which is discovered there, but this was an interpretation without illusions and with no consolations.

GERALD LARNER

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# Right foot forward, march

**Michael Portillo**  
on overcoming  
division and  
doubt: the  
challenges that  
face the Tory party  
in the 21st century

With the Tory party reduced to 165 seats in Parliament, we must expect books with titles like *Whatever Happened to the Conservatives?* and *Is Conservatism Dead?* Those questions merit serious debate, but at this short distance from the election the first offerings at our book-stalls are not principally concerned with objective analysis. There are scapegoats to be reared, scores to be settled and spins to be spun.

Embittered politicians — even highly intelligent ones — write poor history. They tumble into propaganda. The book by Ian Gilmour and Mark Garnett traces the history of the Conservative Party since the election. In the preface the authors make their intention clear: to show how the Tories prospered as long as the party pursued "One Nation" policies. When under Margaret Thatcher it ceased to do so, say the authors, Britain was divided and impoverished and the Conservatives destroyed.

This produces a 1066 *And All That* version of Tory history. There are "right" things that people did and "wrong" things. There was a "best Prime Minister" and a second best, and of course by implication a worst one. As in westerns, Conservatives appear in white hats (Churchill, Macmillan, Macleod, Gilmour and Clarke) and black hats (Thatcher, Howard, Lamont, Portillo, and, surprisingly, Major). Sir Edward Heath's hat is grey. There are "extremists", the "hard Right" and "Europhobes" (that is those who do not believe in a federal Europe) who battle with "moderates" and people of "common sense" (that is, those who do).

The main thesis is that Margaret Thatcher was an unbending ideologue who rejoiced in creating two nations, as echoed by John Gray, one of the two authors of *Is Conservatism Dead?* In particular, he points the finger at her Government's pursuit of "the mirage of the wholly free market".

There are problems with this thesis. First, Mrs Thatcher's Government may sometimes have talked unbridled free market, but it certainly didn't act it. Under Mrs T, ministers constantly tried to increase their budgets, especially in health, social security and education. We maintained regional grants, and fought fiercely to bribe inward investors into picking Britain. We created urban development corporations and huge training programmes. We strained to help British companies to win government orders at home and contracts overseas.

Secondly, if this was such a terrible period for the Tories and the country, how was it we kept winning elections? Special circumstances of the time, says Gilmour, convincingly. Thirdly, if our policies were "two nation", why did we triple the number of people in higher education and end up with a higher proportion of our people in work than other European countries? And fourthly, if our policies were such terrible election losers, why did the shrewd Tony Blair adopt low taxes, tight money, tight spending, privatisation and union reforms?

John Gray concedes that point but says that with Labour now innovatively posi-

## NATURE NOTES



### Scrag End of Lamb

After the Barnsley chop, not much remains of these chumps. Try kebabs with fresh vegetables. New Labour, new potatoes.

The beginning of the end: Times cartoonist Peter Brookes marks the Conservative loss of the Barnsley East by-election in *Nature Notes* (Little, Brown, £10)

#### WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE TORIES

A History of the Conservative Party Since 1945

By Ian Gilmour and Mark Garnett

Fourth Estate, £25

ISBN 1 85702 475 3

#### IS CONSERVATISM DEAD?

By John Gray

Profile, £8.99

ISBN 1 85197 042 0

#### COLLAPSE OF STOUT PARTY

The Decline and Fall of the Tories

By Julian Critchley and Morrison Halcrow

Gollancz, £30

ISBN 0 573062 77 0

tioned in the middle ground the Tories will soon become extinct. Time will tell, of course, but historically it is usual for the two main parties to contest the middle ground without either joining the dinosaurs in their fate. The wheel of political fortune normally provides each party at intervals with a turn in government. That may well be the pattern for the years ahead. But in the Eighties the parties moved apart and the Conservative Party was astute to express itself in ideological terms, and not only won elections but convinced many governments abroad to adopt similar policies.

It paid a price for its rhetoric, eventually. As David Willetts records in his part of *Is Conservatism Dead?*, the Conservatives came to be seen as vandals destroying the institutions of the country. There were genuine problems in striking the right balance between modernising Britain and maintaining the institutions that Conservatives were meant to defend. At times, the choices made offended traditional feelings (eg, those concerning Bart's Hospital) and at other times, it was modernists who were outraged (eg, the Royal Yacht *Britannia*). But such choices fall to be made by all modernising governments, and Mr Blair will face them too.

Sir Julian Critchley (co-author with Morrison Halcrow of *Collapse of Stout Party*) is absolved of the charge of being modern. He traces his enthusiasm for a federal Europe back to the effects of postwar visits to Strasbourg with its "black and white heart" and "single spired cathedral", "unbelievably good food" and "ubiquitous Gewurztraminer". "It is not I who have changed," he says, "but my party," adding that after spending 77 years as MP for Aldershot, "now I am back in the real world and I do not

even know the price of a first-class postage stamp."

In politics what he "enjoyed most was the gossip... witty and unbelievably malicious". But the real world has spoilt Critchley's sense of humour. The book has only one good joke. On the day of the ERM debacle, John Patten made a speech in Critchley's constituency and annoyed him by arriving late and failing to mention the crisis. Critchley took his revenge in his vote of thanks by pretending John was Chris Patten, explaining "just how difficult it was to travel the 120,000 miles from Hong Kong and arrive on time in deepest Hampshire".

Only David Willetts, out of these six authors, sees or considers a future for the Tories. He lifts the banner of "civic conservatism" and points to a Britain based on "little platoons", such as autonomous local state schools. His ideal Conservatism picks up again the themes of community and partnership, of duty, obligation and social interdependence about which Mrs Thatcher spoke with passion, years before Mr Blair had his first encounter with a focus group. But, says Willetts, where Mr Blair offers soft soap about "values", Conservatives have "principles", and where Mr Blair would centralise policy making, the backbone in the Tory model of a community is self-governing institutions.

Such subtleties matter, but may not be the stuff to guarantee election victories. The challenge for William Hague is to reassociate the Tory party with compassion and magnanimity, while emphasising important Conservative principles: to keep the State in check and encourage personal independence.

His task is even bigger than it seems. For what Gilmour and Critchley reveal with their pejorative descriptions of Tory opponents is the real cause of our present discontents: the complete failure between Conservatives to understand one another. It will require some months yet, perhaps years, before the history can be written with a view to promoting reconciliation, rather than entrenching division.

Michael Portillo was Secretary of State for Defence 1995-97.

I had always thought of Philip Knightley as the quiet professional, meticulous, thorough, a serious investigator. I remember him as an anchorman among the pyrotechnic geniuses at the old *Sunday Times*.

Not at all, he tells us. He's been up to some of the worst tricks of the trade — invented stories, suppressed the truth, missed exclusives, been used by intelligence agencies. Much of journalism, he tells us, is a confidence trick played on an unsuspecting public. Reporters are at their worst when they operate in packs (a present point in view of the Diana tragedy), and news desks are more interested in having their own theories confirmed than in being told what actually happened.

All this makes for some good yarns as Knightley recalls his early days in Australia and Fleet Street. Later on, however, the charges become graver. Looking back at some of the great *Sunday Times* investigations of the Sixties and Seventies, he finds serious fault with many of them. He tells how the early revelations about Kim Philby, the third man in the Burgess-Maclean spy scandal and one of *Insight's* early scoops, were shown to SIS in advance, and were therefore, presumably, cleared by them. The thalidomide inquiry, he claims, failed the very victims it was meant to champion. And the Hitler Diaries were published despite Knightley's own

## Tricks of the trade

Magnus Linklater

A HACK'S PROGRESS  
By Philip Knightley  
Cape, £17.99  
ISBN 0 224 04399 4

warnings that they were almost certainly a hoax.

The clear implication is that the great tradition of investigative journalism for which the *Sunday Times* once stood is a

hollow one. But even Knightley's own evidence suggests the opposite. The detail uncovered by *Insight* about British and United States intelligence in the Fifties broke new ground, not just in the light it shed on hitherto forbidden territory, but in demonstrating how serious newspaper investigations could be conducted. Nothing on that level is being done in British journalism today. The detective work carried out by the *Sunday Times* on thalidomide was formidable. The team that stuck with it for a decade produced more scientific evidence than Distillers, who manufactured it, had ever collected themselves. Without that, the parents and children would never have won the compensation they finally achieved. As to the Hitler Diaries affair, the story would not have run if *The Sunday Times* had been allowed to investigate it properly rather than having to take it on, sight unseen.

The trouble with Knightley's conclusions is that they will be pounced on by cost-conscious managers and used as further justification for abandoning the dying art of investigative reporting. *Insight* at its best was a highly effective operation which cost a great deal less than today's tabloids spend on buying up royal exclusives. It would be a pity if Knightley's cautionary tales were used to undermine what is ultimately the most worthwhile form of journalism.



No scoop: the Hitler diaries proved a hoax

## Firing the Canon

Tania Glyde

BODIES OF WORK  
By Kathy Acker  
Serpent's Tail, £11  
ISBN 1 85242 425 7

Of my many least favourite literary expressions, the pompous, elitist phrase "The Canon" is one of the worst. "The Canon" consists of the "important" books you should have read in order to be a proper member of the Educated Establishment. After a writer has joined The Canon, he can, broadly (unless a Young Jerk reviewer is wishing to make his career) do no wrong.

However, just as the underground becomes the elite in very few jumps, so there are other canons occupying parallel political universes. A good example is those writers who are unassailably correct in their critiques of culture: William Burroughs, Georges Bataille, Alexander Trochil, for example. Kathy Acker is a member of that group. It is a clever position to be in. To criticise these writers is to be reactionary, an upholder of bourgeois morality. I find this attitude as cathartic as that of the mainstream Establishment, but it is seductive.

And Kathy Acker is seductive. I admit that, for me, she is a kind of icon, as much as I believe in icons. The way she writes forces an identification with her. One moment you think "Yeah, just what I've



Acker: seductive icon

always thought — to hell with all of them! The next it's "All right all right, get on with it!" This collection of cultural criticism is variable and full of powerful contradictions. Acker quotes de Sade, who says that a woman must be hypocritical and deceitful to survive in a man's world. Then she writes with rage about women's role in society, and yet at the same time fanatically quotes William Burroughs, her mentor, as if being fed ideas from a tube. Maybe the paradox is exciting, "unbourgeois".

The pieces on Peter Greenaway, Boxcar Bertha and copyright in the Net are some examples of clear informative thought. *The Meaning of the Eighties* is also good but there is, for me, too much stuff here that dates from 1990 or before. So much has happened in art and culture since then it seems redundant to compile so much commentary that precedes it.

In the preface she says: "I'm not sure I like my essays." Well, it doesn't matter. Kathy Acker is one of those writers whose next work is always eagerly awaited.

## Ask the question, know the answer

A conceptual history finds Roger Scruton venturing into the dangerous ground between the absolute and the relative

### TRUTH A History

By Felipe Fernández-Armesto

Bantam, £12.99

ISBN 0 59304 140 2

All dialogue depends on the concept of truth. To agree with another is to accept the truth of what he says; to disagree is to reject it. In ordinary speech we aim at truth, and it is only on the assumption of this aim that people make sense. But like all concepts on which thinking depends, the concept of truth is impossible to explain, since any explanation must already make use of it.

Likewise, to justify rational argument you must make use of rational argument, which is to assume what you have to prove, namely, that rational argument is justified. These obvious points of logic — which ought to bring the question to an end, by showing us that with concepts like truth, reason, and deduction and so on, we reach bedrock — now issue from the mouths of charlatans, as though they were definitive proofs of the subjectivity of truth, of the relative nature of rational argument, and of the general impossibility of objective knowledge. In fact they are proofs of the opposite. A concept that must be used even by the one who rejects it has the greatest possible title to objectivity. A procedure that must be employed even in the attempt to prove its own "relativity" has a validity

which is not relative at all, but absolute.

Nowhere has the amateurish play with the concepts of truth and rationality done more damage than in the study of history, and Felipe Fernández-Armesto's history of "truth" is an historian's response to the problem. I place "truth" in inverted commas, since I do not believe that truth has a history, any more than it has a history, or when, or not or all — or any other concept without which nothing could be said. What Fernández-Armesto has in fact written is an agreeable romp through time and space. In search of the weird and not so weird things that people have thought about truth, and their constant attempts to avoid it. The most interesting pages in this work are those inspired by Malinowski, Lévi-Strauss and

their fellow anthropologists, in which the author muses over the world.

Less interesting, perhaps, are the ventures into the history of philosophy, in which Fernández-Armesto gives an anecdotal, and not always accurate, account of the rise of modern logic, and the peculiar arguments that have been used to persuade the gullible that there is no such thing as objective truth, that all opinions are relative, that rationality is merely our rationality, and in short that anything goes.

This "trashing of truth", as Fernández-Armesto describes it, has had more effect on his own discipline than on science or philosophy, and this for a very good reason. As a leading disciple of Braudel and the *Annales* school of history, our author is well aware that history remains always to be rewritten, that dates and battles and kings are the flotsam on the deeper currents, and that the story will change with the point of view of the observer. So there may be some truth in relativism after all, since the God's-eye view of the past is unobtainable.

Of course, this does not license the irresponsible subjectivism of the Post-Modernists. It is still objectively true that war broke out in Europe in 1914, it is objectively true that millions of Jews were murdered in the Holocaust and so on.

But these facts can be understood only from a perspective that is necessarily selective, and one which forms patterns and pictures by filtering out information. Hence, historical study cannot have the character of a natural science: history is a work of interpretation, which will always fall short of giving the ultimate causes of things.

That is all that the "relativity" of historical analysis amounts to. But it is not all that it is taken to be by the Post-Modernists on the disciples of Foucault. For Foucault, the truth of a thought is conferred by the system of ruling ideas. The concepts, theories and rationality of an epoch are dictated by "power": there is no criterion against which to assess them, save that provided by some rival power which challenges their

ascendancy. History is therefore always rewritten in the interests of power, and your choice of historical theory is simply a political choice, motivated by your allegiance to the powers that contend for domination. That is the kind of damaging myth that Fernández-Armesto ought to be attacking. But he is respectful towards Foucault and his kind, and refrains from engaging with this new kind of sophistry.

Indeed, he is prepared to tolerate a measure of relativism in all human thinking, and believes — on what seem to me to be quite erroneous grounds — that Heisenberg, Gödel and Einstein have, between them, undermined the absolutism of mathematics and science. On the contrary, it seems to me. Such thinkers have merely reached bedrock and what they say is not relative to their own conceptions, but if true, then true absolutely. Even the theory of relativity is, if true, true absolutely.

Although Fernández-Armesto is right to worry about the trashing of truth, and about "the breakdown of

confidence in the power of language to express it", it could also be that there is less in the arguments of the iconoclasts than meets his eye. It is worth pointing out, as he does not, that Plato decisively refuted Protagoras's relativism in the dialogue that bears that sophist's name, and that the arguments of Derrida, Rorty, and the rest are no better and for the most part far worse, than those of Protagoras. Indeed, in the case of Derrida, they are not arguments at all, but fits of quasi-psychotic wordplay which prove not that there is no objective reality, but only that Derrida does not belong to it.

*Truth: A History* is, meanwhile, a high-spirited vacation in a realm of dangerous ideas: the author's cultivated mind and inexhaustible appetite for curious facts make the journey agreeable and instructive. But it would be wise to go through a course of inoculations first.

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Malcolm Bradbury welcomes — with sorrow — the elegiac work that Kurt Vonnegut claims will be his last

## Why he writes so good

Kurt Vonnegut is unmistakably a Hoosier. A Hoosier is a person from the Midwestern state of Indiana, a region of hog-farms, old industrial cities, small towns with architect-protected courthouses, squares, the state of Hoagy Carmichael and Cole Porter, the shot-down gangster John Dillinger, the socialist Eugene V. Debs, and the homegrown people's poet James Whitcomb Riley, whose most famous lines recorded that "it takes a heap o' livin' To make a house a home".

Indiana, like the Midwest in general, has always produced its homegrown sages; and Vonnegut is one. He may, in the great diaspora, have become, after due pains and difficulties (journalism, advertising, car sales), one of America's best-known and most bittersweet writers. He may have been hailed, in the Fifties, as among the most inventive and original writers of modern science fiction (*Player Piano*, *Cat's Cradle*), and in the Sixties as one of the most experimental of Post-Modernists — above all for his remarkable and classic novel *Slaughterhouse-Five*, a realistic fantasy that traffics between the firebombing of Dresden and the imaginary planet Traftamador.

Yet, unlike the more streetwise or more explicitly literary of his contemporaries, at no point did he ever lose his folksy, regional, Midwestern voice, nor what went with it: a taste for moral aphorism, the instincts of a preacher and a guru. His stories looked forward and galloped backward, but they also looked back, to the Indiana of childhood, to the great stock of German-American relatives that shapes his life (*Timequake* is a paean to the extended family), to the Mid-American simplicities that lay, once upon a time, behind American scientific progress and the urban experience. Vonnegut has through-out been both a complex and an intensely simple, perhaps even a naïve, writer; an explorer of grim futures whose voice was haunted by

cultural and autobiographical memory.

So, in his later years, Vonnegut has become a kind of Hoosier Mark Twain. Twain's late life depression was legendary, though, of course, there were always those saltings of humour, those flashes of hope. A deterministic fatalism threatened everything; free will was gone, and the innocence of childhood choice and hope. The pure American and very democratic and demotic imagination reflected on misfortune, mortality, the waning of promise; the famous public writer reached out beyond the comic imagination to say life was a sick joke.

These too are Vonnegut's later

### TIMEQUAKE

By Kurt Vonnegut

Cape, £15.99

ISBN 0 224 02640 8

years. He introduces *Timequake* by explaining he writes it at the age of 73, and that it's born out of a failed novel, worked on over the past ten years, and called *Timequake One*. He's discarded it in disappointment: this is the filleted fish. He also announces it as the last book he will ever write. He confesses to its, his, dismay and depression: "I'm a monocular depressive descended from monocular depressives," he announces. "That's how come I write so good."

Everywhere there is the flavour of elegiac finale. The core tale is a conceit about a "timequake", a stalling of the progressive impetus of the Universe, which occurs in February 2001. Everyone is returned backwards one decade, to the year 1991, and then forced to repeat and relive every detail of their lives (or deaths) — until, in a repeated 2001, the world picks up where it left off, free will "kicks in again", and the present laws of human choice are restored. The conceit is lively enough, though it's more the flavour of a story than a

story, for *Timequake* is not a novel: it's a social and personal elegy, a work of nostalgia, a set of essay-like discourses, anecdotes, political observations, hung round the thread of this very filleted plot.

Kilgore Trout, Vonnegut's old alter ego, is here, as usual standing both outside and inside the story. As a wisdom-spouting old male bag-lady who deposits his unfinished or unpublished stories in a trash-can outside the now near-useless Academy of Arts and Letters, he's present to observe the new crisis of humanity — free will, of sorts, restored after a decade of automatism. He's also there to give his reflections on it at the final clamor, with Vonnegut, his other half, the successful author and dispenser of advice, at his right hand, and with death near at hand.

The notes of elegy sound everywhere: over the dying of books, the losing of the sense of history, the fading of socialism and good democracy, over the deaths of so many (real) relatives, friends, former lovers, over the world as cursed murderous madhouse, over life as, in Trout's key phrase, "a crock of shit". Perhaps those who have departed are the better served. Perhaps those who turn to religion for consolation are wiser than darkened humanists like Vonnegut, exposed to the world as it is.

In the new Bellow, in the new Mailer, we have found ourselves suddenly exposed to the self-consciously late voice of some of our most important American writers. Vonnegut's is bittersweet wisdom turned very near to idiosyncrasy. There's an urgency of retelling, a way, now, of using the intersection of fact and fiction not to show the great playgrounds of fiction, but to say what is left. Vonnegut has said a good deal of it before, and, in literary terms, often better. *Timequake* is random, and often far too anecdotal for its own good. But if it is a farewell, it's a moving one, not least because it rescues a ceremonial, perhaps even a religious, thrill of hope at the end.



Kurt Vonnegut: writing with the half-bittered, half-amused voice of a latter-day Mark Twain

## Remember the forgotten man

Brian Brivati

CALLAGHAN

A Life

By Kenneth O. Morgan

DUP, £25

ISBN 0 19 820216 4

corrects an important imbalance in the literature on contemporary Britain. In the process Callaghan's flaws are revisited even as his virtues are given much-needed exposure.

Morgan portrays Callaghan as a moderniser constrained by his party. But there was a rigidity to his approach to politics that was founded not so much on a belief in a particular balance between the State and organised labour as on a faith in a mythologised sense of the moderation and fairness of the British. He found it difficult to cope with an age in which society changed and politics polarised. As

Home Secretary in the 1960s, his instincts were liberal on hanging, prison reform and children — indeed, Morgan sees a consistent idealism in his view of children right through to his launch of the great education debate. But his response to the permissive society was to give warning that Roy Jenkins was being "too nice to those buggers".

The crunch in the conflict between his personal liberalism and his sense of the Labour movement's

social conservatism was immigration. Personally committed to tolerance, when the issue clashed with his view of the needs of the core Labour vote, he delivered the desired restriction.

Morgan criticises and tries to understand: "Callaghan... felt that immigration was an issue to be handled in a way attuned to public opinion, rather than on the basis of abstract liberal theory." This is all well and good, but on hanging he was happy to follow the liberal

theory against public opinion. Morgan does not explain what was different about race. Perhaps there were more votes in immigration control than in hanging people?

Aside from the murkier corners of his career, Morgan convincingly shows Callaghan as a substantial and interesting political figure. He was at his best as PM, better at making executive decisions than at political intrigue — the best example of his management of Cabinet, indeed, a textbook case of how to get difficult policies through a hopelessly divided Cabinet, being his conduct of the 1976 IMF crisis. His executive ability made him a global

statesman of extraordinary standing and the key to his stature was, in Crossman's phrase, that he was rarely rattled. Until that is, the very end. His political skills deserted him when he made the decision, against much advice, to delay an election until after the winter of 1978-79.

Overall, this is a classic political life, critical, well-balanced, compellingly written: a traditional life and times treatment of a central figure of the age. No future group of undergraduates, or indeed, anyone interested in British politics since the war, will have any excuse for not knowing the name of old Labour's last Prime Minister.

Brian Brivati's life of Hugh Gaitskill will be published next month in paperback by Richard Cohen Books.

### Modern Alarms

Few people can read a black-letter edition of Chaucer. Many are uncomfortable with the long-s that was used before 1800, reading it as "f". Yet when we modernise, we lose what I believe was a deliberate play by John Donne in his erotic poem "The Flea":

How little that, which thou  
Dost me, I do thee, is,  
It suck'd me first, and now sucks thee...

TYPOGRAPHY has consequences. In a talk about her husband, David Kindersley, Lida Cardozo said that his proposed lettering for motorway signs had been shown to be legible in smaller sizes than the face that was adopted — so his signs "would have blotted out less of the countryside".

THIS conference ranged from a lecture on how early printers printed red initials, known as rubrication, to laptop demonstrations of Arabic and Japanese character-formation from a QWERTY keyboard. The cast included calligraphers, teachers, graphic designers (with rubricated hair or shoes), programmers, printers and book-sellers. There was even a Simplified Spelling crakpot whose screens wud leav evry old other looking literat.

THE era of metal type is over, but a forum concentrated upon the handset metal originals of thousands of typesetters that exist in archives such as those of the Rochester Institute of Technology in America and the Plantin Museum in Antwerp. James Mosley of the St Bride Printing Library, near Fleet Street, spoke of the steel punches of a face such as Plantin as "the letters themselves". Whatever later typographers may do, these endure — like the metal type in France which used to define what that measurement meant. There was talk of starting to catalogue these various holdings, so that they can help to inform future typographic design. It is always worth remembering that the handsomest of printed books, and some of the least dated, appeared in the 15th century.

JIM McCUE

### THE TIMES DILLONS BOOKER FORUM

#### Meet the Booker authors

YOU ARE INVITED to an evening of readings and discussion with five of the shortlisted authors for this year's Booker Prize. This Times/Dillons forum will be held on Monday, October 13. The six nominations are:

*Quarantine*, by Jim Crace

(Viking, £16.99).

*The Underground Man*, by Mick Jackson

(Picador, £15.99).

*Grace Notes*, by Bernard MacLaverty

(Jonathan Cape, £14.99).

*Europa*, by Tim Parks

(Secker & Warburg, £9.99).

*The Essence of the Thing*, by Madeleine St John

(Fourth Estate, £9.99).

*The God of Small Things*, by Arundhati Roy

(Flamingo, £15.99).

The forum will be held at Church House, Dean's Yard, Westminster, London SW1P 3NZ, starting at 7.30pm.

Tickets at £10 (concessions £7.50) include an audio cassette featuring extracts from each of the books and information about the authors. Subject to demand, the event will be interpreted by sign language.

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## Caught between error and terror

MY FIRST reaction on hearing about *Provos* was: "Oh, no. Not another book about the whole sordid business," but I was won over by Peter Taylor's diligent research, sceptical eye and fine reporting. Quite simply, Taylor is no fool, takes nothing he is told for granted and does not fall into the trap of glorifying terror, even inadvertently, as so many others do.

After dealing briefly with the events which led to the partition of Ireland, Taylor moves quickly to the substance of the book — a history of the Provisional republican movement, which describes how a terrorist movement, virtually non-existent in 1969, was regenerated by the civil rights campaign of the late Sixties and the violent Unionist reaction to it and how it grew to command both support and ambivalence across a wide section of nationalist Ireland.

Taylor places much of the blame for the rise of the "Provos" on the stupidity of successive Stormont and British governments, but he understands that it was cock-up rather than conspiracy that dictated many of the errors of judgment made by British governments.

Thus, dealing with "Bloody Sunday" in Londonderry in January 1972, when 13 civil



Death by misunderstanding? Bobby Sands' funeral, 1981

rights marchers were shot dead by British paratroopers, Taylor extensively researches and interviews participants from both sides and then says: "What happened on 'Bloody Sunday' was not... a conspiracy but an operation that went terribly and fatally wrong. Basically the officers, ser-

geants and corporals of One Para lost control of their men."

Anyone who has tried to look with an open mind at the background to, and the events of, that day would find it difficult to come to any other conclusion. Taylor sustains that level of objectivity throughout the book.

I can also, in many cases, confirm the accuracy of Taylor's research. Throughout *Provos*, he refers to a long-term intermediary between the "Provos" and the British Government, whom he describes as the "Contact". When dealing with the IRA ceasefire of 1974-76, which led eventually to the demise of the then leadership, Taylor describes

how the Contact — worried by what he felt was British bad faith — had a meeting with Dave O'Connell, then the leading "Provos" political strategist, who was in Tyrone to speak at an Easter Sunday commemoration. I, then an IRA volunteer and commander of the local area, was also in Tyrone that weekend. I never once left O'Connell's side except to set up a meeting with the person whom I have long suspected played the role Taylor ascribes to the Contact.

That piece of research alone is an example of his brilliant investigative journalism. As he details the twists and turns within the incestuous and labyrinthine world of militant republicanism, Taylor never loses the plot.

There are, of course, weaknesses in this book. The present IRA chief of staff and his predecessor — who held the job for 13 years — are never even mentioned, and it is wrong to say that Gerry Adams ever had that position. But these are minor quibbles. Taylor's finishing lines are the most jaundiced of all. "At the conclusion of all my many detailed interviews with the 'Provos', I asked one final question: 'Is the war' over? Very few of them said it was.' The words of the 'Provos' should be well-heeded by the legions of wishful thinkers.

## The stories of his life

Amanda Craig

BARNEY'S VERSION

By Mordecai Richler

Chatto & Windus, £16.99

ISBN 0 7011 6272 4

The condition of man, or rather manhood, is one that seems to be preoccupying Canadian writers as much as this year. Robertson Davies set the scene before his death with his splendid *Coram Boy*, but recently Carol Shields and Mordecai Richler have entered the fray.

We all know that after a few millennia of living high on the hog the male sex is going wobbly, but here the voice from the attic (as Davies called it) is taking on an especially glum autumnal note.

Barney Panofsky is bent on writing an apology pro vita sua. By his own admission a sadist, coward, thief and monster, the question is whether he is also the murderer of his best friend Boogie.

When the novel opens, he is considering suing a novelist and former acquaintance, Terry McIver, for libel. This sets our narrator up as a fine comic character, for, by his own account, Barney is both better and worse than McIver's jaundiced description — though in this case, the novelist comes off as worse than his victim.

Like its narrator, *Barney's Version* is more complex and intelligent than at first appears. If still a watered-down version of Roth and Bellow. Abandoned by his last great love, Miriam, Barney structures his story by reminiscing about each of his three wives.

First comes Clara, the mad and posthumously famous poetess he meets in Paris in the 1950s. The Paris chapters are the least convincing, being mired not so much in nostalgia as self-consciousness. Like too many other male writers, from Wilde to Martin Amis,

Richler is a comic writer who sprays his personality on his fiction like a tomato. The result is that either the characters all sound the same, or they fail to come alive.

Hilarity strikes with the second Mrs Panofsky ("Life for her was an exam to be passed"), a Jewish princess of monstrous materialism and self-pity whom Barney marries in the attempt to conform to type. Her monologues, alongside Barney's spoof letters to Miriam's current lover, save the novel from bathos. He sees Miriam at his wedding, falls instantly in love, and receives the first of many rebuffs. Eventually they marry and have three children, but not until Barney has stood trial for shooting Boogie after finding him in bed with the ghostly Mrs Panofsky.

This is not, however, a plot-driven novel, but one which has aspirations to the trickier, post-Nabokovian kind. As in Richler's Booker-shortlisted *Solomon Gursky Was Here*, the aim is to portray a man's life. It fails largely because of the unevenness of tone, a sliding into slapstick which is not consistent with a deeper purpose. Life may be absurd, and nobody ever truly understands anybody else, but for a novelist to expound this over 424 pages is not a version of Beckett's endgame but a *reductio ad absurdum*.

### THE TIMES ON SATURDAY

52-page guide to the best arts, books, music, cinema and theatre PLUS: Full listings of events in every region



Bargains of the week: Lazily up the river; £39 ferry to France for five; golf in Scotland from £195

HOLIDAYS

A DOURO RIVER cruise for a day is included in a four-day break to Oporto in Portugal on offer next month from Unicorn Holidays for £408 a person. Price also includes Friday morning flights from Gatwick and three nights' B&B at a five-star hotel. Details: 01582 834400.

BRITISH AIRWAYS Holidays is cutting the price of a week at Long Bay Beach Resort in the British Virgin Islands to £825 during October. Departures are on Sundays to San Juan and the price includes flights and transfers. Details: 01293-723161.

THE DOMINICAN Republic for £504 a person for a fortnight's all-inclusive holiday is on offer from Last Stop Holiday Shop. Fly from Manchester on October 27. Details: 0541 503400.

CRYSTAL ITALY is offering holidays in Tuscany next month at savings of up to £378 a couple. Accommodation in the Villa Bardegallina farm house, including return flights to Pisa and car hire on October 4, costs £369 a person

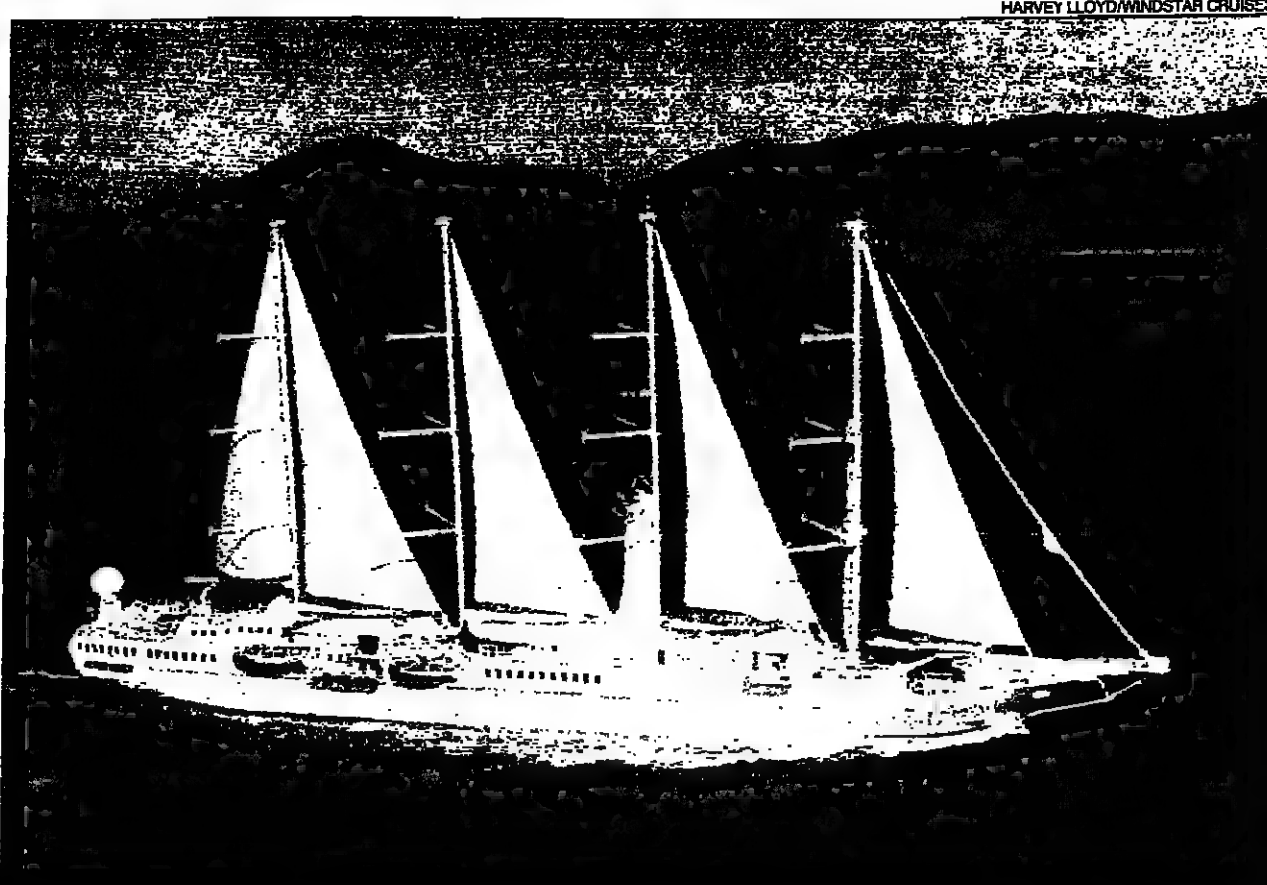
a week and £499 a person for two weeks, a saving of £159. Details: 0181-390-5554.

WALKING in the Alpujarras, the spectacular and hilly farming region of southern Spain, is available for a week from October 11 for £425 a person from Waymark Holidays. The price includes return flights and half-board. Details: 01753 516477.

SOUTH Africa for a week from £499 a person, with accommodation at Breakwater Lodge, Cape Town, and London return flights, is available from the African Experience. Details: 0990 168246.

SEVEN NIGHTS' self-catering on the Greek island of Lefkas is available through Kosmar for £189. Departures are from Gatwick on October 5. Details: 0181-368-6833.

FOUR WEEKS' full-board, is available to couples, at Benidorm's Vista Oro hotel, from January 3 for £404 a person, including flights from Gatwick, a saving of £71 on the brochure price. Details: Lunn Poly travel shops.



Two Windstar sail-assisted ships, each carrying 148 passengers, begin a series of seven-night luxury cruises in the quiet islands of the Lesser Antilles from November 1. Prices, which start at £2,247, include air fares to and from Barbados. Details: Adam & Harvey Group 0171-628 7711

HOTELS

SPEND a traditional Christmas at the Lucknam Park country house hotel near Bath, in Wiltshire, complete with carols, midnight mass and Father Christmas arriving in a horse-drawn carriage. The three-night all-inclusive break costs £670 a person based on double occupancy. Details: 01225 742777.

A THREE-course pre-theatre supper is available from the Savoy Hotel's River Restaurant for £28.50 a person. The restaurant is also hosting big band-era dinner dances on certain Saturday nights at a cost of £40 a person. Details: 0171-220 2698.

WOOD HALL in West Yorkshire has a two-night country pursuits weekend of clay pigeon shooting, hawk-badger watching and fishing. Cost is £85 a person a night including dinner, for a minimum two-night stay. Details: 01937 587271.

WEEKEND rate at the Novotel Hammersmith in London is £59 an adult a night, based on double occupancy, including breakfast

and dinner. The offer is available through Superbreak Mini-Holidays and children stay free with two adults. Details: 0161-238 5257.

BODYSGALLEN Hall in Llandudno in North Wales is joining with the National Trust for a two-night "house party" weekend on November 7-8. The cost, including private tours of local historic houses and gourmet dinners at BodysgalLEN, costs £290 a person. Details: 01492 584466.

THE CIRAGAN Palace Hotel in Istanbul, part of the Kempinski hotels group, has launched two new luxury honeymoon programmes available until the end of the year. Prices start from £315 a room a night for the deluxe package. Details: 0800 868588.

THISTLE Hotels is offering a choice of special golf breaks at nine of its Scottish hotels, with prices starting from £195 a person for three nights' half-board accommodation and three rounds of golf. Details: 01294 724272.

THE SPREAD Eagle Hotel in West Sussex is holding a Great Mushroom Hunt on the weekend of October 24-25. Cost is from £175 a person for two nights including certain meals and a guided mushroom tour. Details: 01730 816911.

THE TENTH-floor restaurant at the Royal Garden Hotel in Kensington, called The Tenth, is starting a series of seasonal gourmet evenings on October 10. The seven-course menu costs £75 a person. Details: 0171-937 8000.

WEEKEND guests at Staley Hall Hotel near Newcastle can take part in its mini golfing tournament. The break costs £375 a couple, based on double occupancy. Details: 01434 673350.

CRUISES

SEVEN NIGHTS on board the world's biggest cruise ship, the Carnival Destiny, including flights, all meals and entertainment and one night in Miami, is available for £885 a person plus £135 airport and port taxes. The cruise starts on November 2 and the ship visits Cozumel in Mexico, Grand Cayman and Ocho Rios in Jamaica. Details: 0171-729 1929.

FLIGHTS leave London on January 17 to join Royal Caribbean's Majesty of the Seas for a nine-night cruise of the western Caribbean, including a call at the private resort of Labadee in Haiti. Sav-

ings of up to 36 per cent are being offered. An ocean-view cabin, for example, now costs £1,099, plus taxes, compared with the fixed price of £1,729. Details: 0800 018 2020.

THOMSON Cruises is offering a 14-night Cruise and Stay holiday from Palma, Mallorca, throughout October and November from £549. The price includes flights, transfers, all taxes and tips on board ship and seven nights in a beach resort. Details: 0990-502562.

A FOUR-DAY voyage to the Norwegian ports of Bergen, Haugesund and Stavang-

er is offered by Color Line from £70 a person, including accommodation and buffet breakfast, from the beginning of November. Depart from Newcastle on Saturday or Tuesday. A double-bed suite for the same cruise costs £248. Details: 0191-2961313.

HOLLAND America Line is offering savings of up to 50 per cent for fly-cruise holidays that have been booked at least 60 days before departure. A nine-day cruise, with flights, to the Bahamas, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands costs from £849, plus £130 air and port taxes. Details: 0171-613-3300.

FLIGHTS

CATHAY PACIFIC has a special Hong Kong excursion priced at £619 from London or £549 from Manchester, reducing to £519 and £459 respectively from November 1. Details: 0345 581581.

MAERSK AIR has introduced a £78 seat-sale fare between Birmingham and Amsterdam. Details: 0345 222111.

BRITISH MIDLAND has seat-sale excursions from London Heathrow to Cologne £89, Copenhagen £89, Frankfurt £99, Nice £129, Oslo £109 and Rome.

Details: 0345 554 554.

THE LOW-COST carrier Debonair on September 29 adds a third daily service to Munich from Luton. Fare starts at £69 one-way. Details: 0500 146200.

UNITED AIRLINES has trimmed its business-class return fare to Delhi from London - from £2,620 to £1,965. Details: 0181-990 9900.

CAMPUS TRAVEL is marketing a £99 excursion between London Heathrow and Madrid. Details: 0171-730 3402.

FERRIES

BRITANNY Ferries has introduced a £59 three-day fare on all routes to France, dropping to £39 next month. The offer, for a car and up to five passengers, is available on selected sailings to Caen, Cherbourg, St Malo and Roscoff. Details: 01629 360360.

SWANSEA Cork Ferries has a £145 return fare on sale until December 15, to include a car and up to five adults. Details: 01792 456116.

LEGOLAND with Scandinavian Seaways, leaving Harwich on October 4, from £123 a person (children £103), includes three nights on-board,

breakfasts, transfers and park entrance. Details: 0990 333111.

RED FUNNEL is offering a five-day return ticket between Southampton and Cowes for £45 until December 31, available on sailings after 10am on weekdays, any time at weekends. The price covers a car and up to four passengers. Details: 01703 334010.

IRISH Ferries Holidays has a seven-night tour of Ireland from £294 a person based on two sharing, including ferry from Holyhead to Dublin with car and B&B. Details: 0990 170000.

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BY HARVEY ELLIOTT

In the meantime a much less complex system will shortly be tested using video carried on the aircraft and without gambling and shopping facilities.



## BY STUART BIRCH

Fred Coultas, the centre's managing director, believes no other British museum offers anything like it: "Cars should be used and enjoyed and I wanted some of our

Cars that form the core of the Centre's collection are too precious to be put on the self-drive menu so Mr Coultas is building up a parallel collection. The Centre is working in association with the Gladstone Carriage Company, which is responsible for operating the scheme and introducing it to tourists. The Lygon Arms is just a start and there are plans to expand to other major hotels.

The Lygon Arms programme will be for two people and include two nights' accommodation and a one-day trip in a chauffeur driven Heritage Centre car including lunch. Prices start at about £450 per person. Longer trips with a chauffeur are planned and self-drive cars could be hired for up to two weeks.

simply because they tend to be easier to drive and will cope more easily with a week or two's holiday use," says Mr Coultas. "Drivers will get some instruction before setting off. We will arrange insurance."

Mr Coultas says that the accent of the new project — particularly the chauffeur-driven element — will be on quiet, steady driving, and raising international awareness of the Heritage Centre.

"By using our cars in this way, we will have a 'living' collection. We have more than 400 vehicles with up to 200 on display, including a special presentation of gas turbine-powered Rovers — among them the Rover-BRM raced at Le Mans in 1965 and driven by Graham Hill and Jackie Stewart — and Jet 1, which for many years was an exhibit at the London Science Museum. We also have the first MG, the first Mini and even the first MGF."

aircraft to descend to the same height as another in the crowded skies over Britain, there is every chance of a smash.

And though nobody yet knows for certain what happened at Southall, if it is shown that the driver missed a series of warning signals, then how far should

The death of Diana, Princess of Wales, a passenger in a chauffeur-driven limousine, was the most dramatic

As computers and electronics become ever more sophisticated, it is technically possible to remove the human element from the controls altogether. If we accept that humans will sometimes make mistakes

still  
end

All aircraft are being fitted with the TCAS anti-collision device, for example. Cars can have computers in

computers to prevent them from getting too close to a vehicle in front. And, of course, trains can be fitted with equipment that will take over if the driver falls asleep or

But is this what we want? And can we afford it? Even if machines are

shown beyond doubt to be safer and more reliable than humans, travellers are always likely to want the reassurance of knowing that a human is playing the major part in

We still distrust the machine — even if it is less likely to make mistakes than the most highly trained human. Ultimate safety may mean removing the human hand from the controls entirely — but is that a price we are prepared to pay?

Costa Cruises announced a cut in the starter price of a nine-day fly-cruise aboard *Costa Victoria* from £1,060 to £814 between December 6 and January 31. As a result, last week was their busiest ever. Similarly, Holland America is trimming nine-night fly cruises aboard *Westerdam* from a starter price of £1,235 down to £990.

Bill Gibbons, director of the Passenger Shipping Association, denied that the

market was saturated. "There isn't an overcapacity, just a lot *more* capacity as in the late autumn, early winter, many more ships migrate there from the Mediterranean and Alaska.

"Also, there is now more capacity specifically dedicated to the UK market - Thomson Cruises will have two ships there this winter. For the past two years, American-based operators have been taking the UK market much more seriously. Their cruise growth rate is down to less than 4 per cent a year." The upmarket Holland America price cur confirms this. "We felt we ought to have a

ship in the Caribbean with a very good lead-in price to tempt first-time cruisers from the UK. Once we've got hold of passengers they tend to stay with us."

Though almost all companies have early-booking incentives, many are loath to discount unsold accommodation openly. It smacks of failure.

The UK boom is continuing to exceed expectations. In the past five years there has been a 150 per cent growth, making it the fastest-growing sector of the industry. The average passenger age also appears to be going down by a year each year; it is currently 54.







letcher takes  
jump-off to  
retain trophy

RACING: TIGHTER CONTROLS FOR BOOKMAKING INDUSTRY PLANNED TO PROTECT PUNTERS

# Levy Board seeks ring of confidence

By CHRIS McGRATH

THE whole of racing's complex funding system, which is constructed around a levy on betting turnover, rests upon one rather fragile premise: that punters enjoy confidence in the bookmaking industry. Yesterday the Horserace Betting Levy Board effectively conceded that punters will, too often, sooner associate the word 'confidence' in this context with the word 'tricks'.

The Board, which gathers and distributes the levy, is seeking tighter protection for punters from the sort of gamble they do not wish to take — with the integrity, or solvency, of their bookmakers. The Home Office is to be consulted

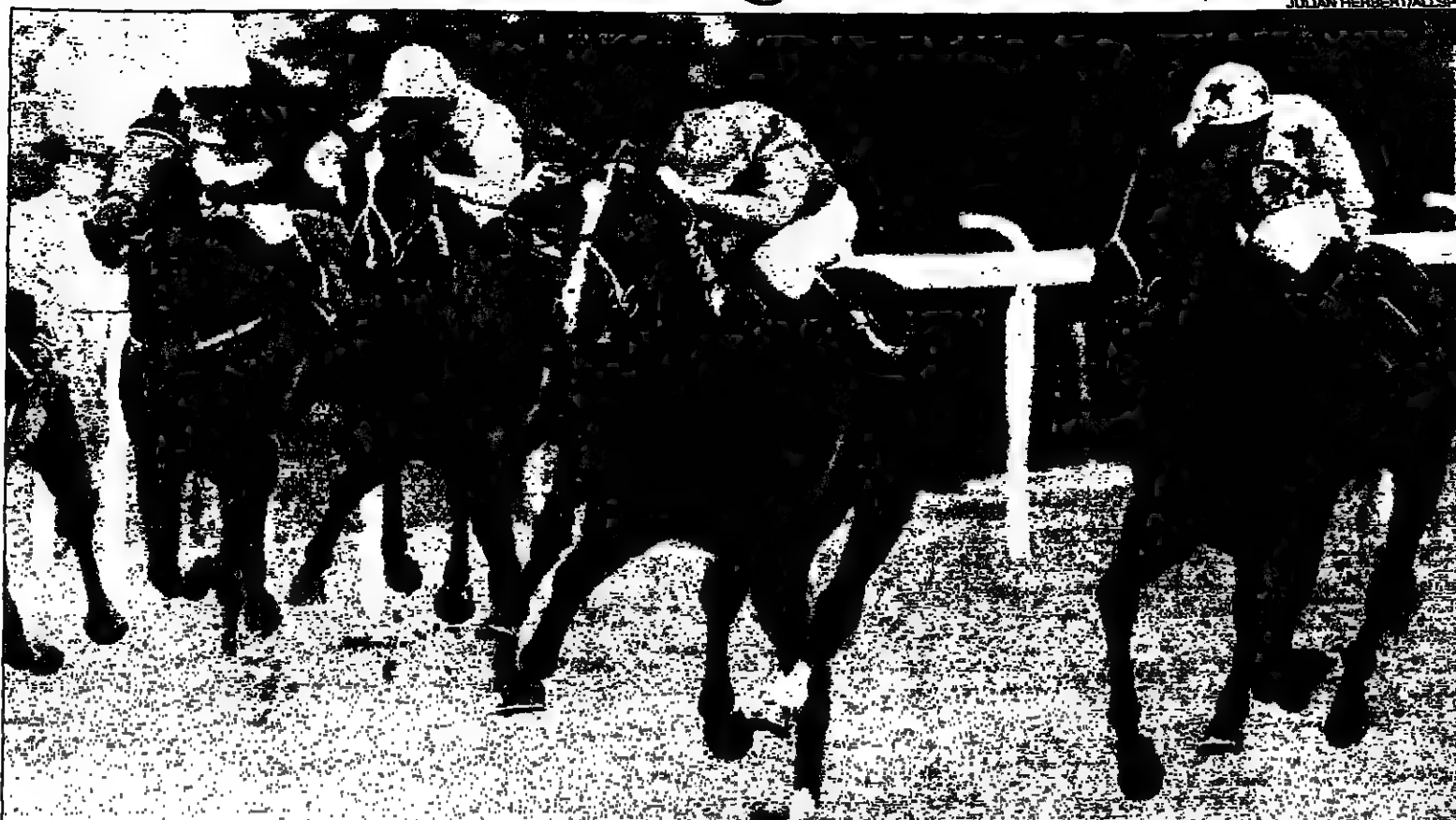
RICHARD EVANS

Nap: CLOSE UP (4.10 Pontefract)  
Next best: Georgia Venture (3.00 Goodwood)

about more rigorous criteria for the issue and renewal of bookmakers' permits by magistrates, while Customs and Excise is to be urged to monitor betting duty payments more closely, seeking early indications of a business in difficulty.

Yesterday's intervention was prompted by the collapse of three minor bookmaking firms over recent months. While Rodney Brack, the Board's chief executive, was anxious to point out that the bulk of the industry is beyond reproach, it has clearly been recognised that such episodes soon prise the wheels off the levy production line.

The impact can be significant when things go wrong."



Imshishway, right, heads for the Horris Hill Stakes at Newbury after landing the Scottish Equitable Auction Stakes at Goodwood yesterday

he said. "But I must emphasise the problem only relates to a very tiny proportion of businesses. The betting industry, like any other, will inevitably include companies that fail for one reason or another. When they do, the customers are likely to suffer."

The Board — particularly its independent members, who are appointed to take account of punters' interests — is acutely conscious of the need to protect the integrity of the betting industry.

He also acknowledged a further concern that punters' perception of the on-course betting market, the source of starting prices, is increasingly cynical. Critics argue that the ring is too primitive (and too easily manipulated) to cope with its vital role in the turnover of millions of pounds off-course.

Racecourses, keen to introduce change, have been bogged down for several years in turgid negotiation with the on-course bookmakers. Yesterday the Levy Board, again citing the effect on turnover of suspicions about integrity, impatiently threatened to arbitrate. After consulting its lawyers, it has discovered that bookmakers do not have an unconditional right to enter a betting ring. If agreement is not reached in two weeks, conditions will be imposed from above.

The punter's lot is, of course, sufficiently vexed at the best of times. There are adequate impediments in every horse

— such as why Oh Nellie, second in the 1,000 Guineas in the spring, has still to win a race this season. Nor will she today, in the Charlton Hunt Supreme Stakes, if Red Camellia is in the same heart as when she last ran at Goodwood. That was last summer, when she ran away with the Prestige Stakes, but she has since been repeatedly thwarted by training setbacks.

There is life enough left in the Flat season, then — and John Reid was yesterday pencilled in to ride Preddipino in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe on Sunday week — but many hearts will be stirred by Dorans Pride's successful return to steeplechasing at the Listowel Festival in Ireland yesterday. Third as a novice in last season's Cheltenham Gold Cup, Dorans Pride shrugged off top weight to win the Guinness Kerry National under Richard Dunwoody.

## RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

**Goodwood**  
Going: good  
2.00 (1m 10y) 1. SIBBA (Candy Mares, 20-1), 2. Constant Attention (J. Quinn, 100-30), 3. Royal Ground (G. Hing, 5-2), 4. ALSO RAN: 7. Five Furies, 8. Franchise (J. Quinn, 100-30), 9. A Leg (A. Leg, 10-1), 10. 12. Opportunity (5th), 11. Shambles, 12. Mule's Magic, 13. Siba's Young Men, 14. For Sober, 15. Siba's Young Men, 16. For Sober, 17. Siba's Young Men, 18. For Sober, 19. Siba's Young Men, 20. For Sober, 21. Siba's Young Men, 22. For Sober, 23. Siba's Young Men, 24. For Sober, 25. Siba's Young Men, 26. For Sober, 27. Siba's Young Men, 28. For Sober, 29. Siba's Young Men, 30. For Sober, 31. Siba's Young Men, 32. For Sober, 33. Siba's Young Men, 34. For Sober, 35. Siba's Young Men, 36. For Sober, 37. Siba's Young Men, 38. For Sober, 39. Siba's Young Men, 40. For Sober, 41. Siba's Young Men, 42. For Sober, 43. Siba's Young Men, 44. For Sober, 45. Siba's Young Men, 46. For Sober, 47. Siba's Young Men, 48. For Sober, 49. Siba's Young Men, 50. For Sober, 51. Siba's Young Men, 52. 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## GOLF: BALLESTEROS AND KITE ADOPT CONTRASTING APPROACHES ON EVE OF RYDER CUP OPENING CEREMONY

## Rivals hope practice will make perfect

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN VALDERRAMA

THE temperature dropped noticeably here yesterday. Clouds dotted the sky above the Costa del Sol, which according to signs all along the notorious Cadiz to Malaga road, is also named the Costa del Golf, and there was a distinct feeling that the time is drawing nigh for both the Europe and the United States teams in the Ryder Cup, which starts tomorrow.

"On the morning of the matches, I'll be pumped up," Tom Kite, the captain of the United States team, said. "I will be anxious to see how some of the pairings pan out, to see how good the guys are really playing. A lot of them look as if they are playing really well, but these are just practice rounds. We know that there is a big difference be-

he was topping the ball. He topped it twice, in fact. I told him to keep the club-face lower through the ball and straightaway he hit a perfect shot.

Giving a team member a masterclass in sand play was not what Kite did, though the 47-year-old was just as evident in support of his team as Ballesteros was of his. Kite stood on the 9th tee and watched as Tiger Woods drove first into the right rough, then played another ball and hit this one into the left rough. As Woods walked from the tee, Kite put his left arm around Woods's right shoulder and talked softly.

Kite has stressed two things to his men. "Enjoy yourselves," he has said repeatedly. "Tom has made this team come together," Davis Love III said. "We are as much a team as any team I have known. We are more relaxed. He has told us to enjoy, work hard, have fun and do well." He has not been extra strict. He has stressed having fun.

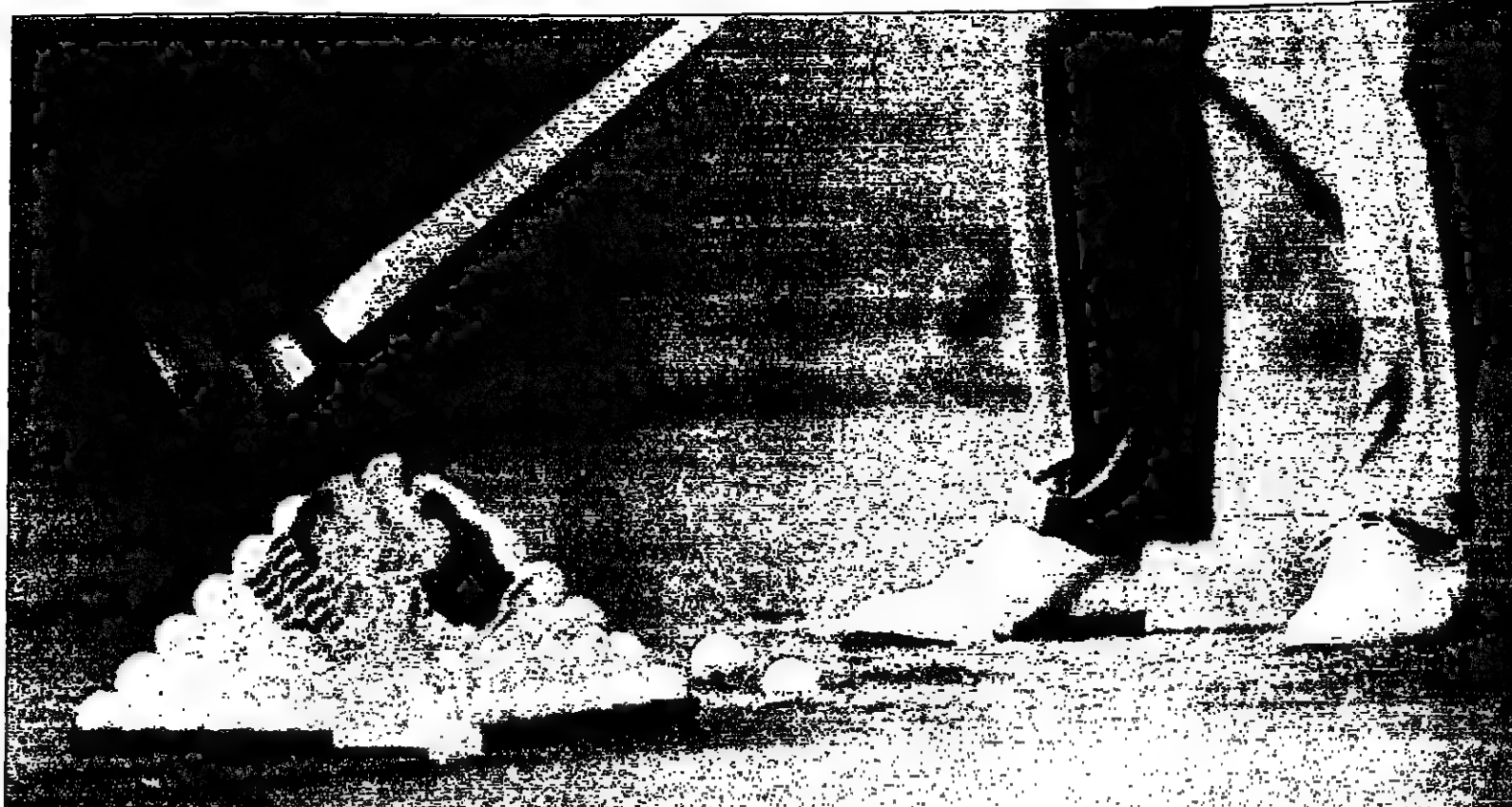
Love and Fred Couples defeated Woods and Phil Mickelson 2 and 1, and the two older Americans, who are such good friends, will surely play together at some time in the first two days, though Couples will have to brush up on his short game. Kite believes putting will be the key to victory. "The best putters will play the most," Kite has said.

By common consent, the outstanding putters among the Americans are Jim Furyk, Woods, Scott Hoch and Brad Faxon, who played with Justin Leonard against Lee Janzen and Jeff Maggert. Furyk and Tom Lehman were partners again, just as they had been when Lehman pocketed \$125 the previous day, and again Lehman and Furyk won, this time beating Mark O'Meara and Hoch by one hole.

"This could turn into a putting contest," Love said. "If the wind blows, it could be decided on the greens. Phil, Brad, we've got to have them out there. They're the guys with the good steady short games that are going to pay off around here."

Couples needs to practice his putting. On the 15th, that stirring par three played from a tee that offers a view of Gibraltar to the west and across to Africa, Couples tried five or six times to hole an eight-foot putt. Long after Love, Woods and Mickelson had climbed to the 16th tee, Couples was still hunched over his ball, before he eventually sank the putt.

On the 18th, Couples did not need to putt. To a huge cheer, Love chipped in from off the green. As soon as the ball disappeared, Butch Harmon, Woods's coach, pulled some money from his pocket and gave it to Love and Couples.



The essential part that the practice ground can play in achieving success at Valderrama is instilled in Nick Faldo to the bottom of his boots

## Periscope puts patient approach in perspective

Things are hotting up at Valderrama. Yesterday expensive sandwiches turned up in the catering outlets (though luck for those of us who pined pathetically at empty cold cabinets on Tuesday). Meanwhile, the marshals now give directions to the 8th tee without first looking blank and panicky; and if only a system of cable cars and helicopters was installed for the use of foot-weary hacks whose hair sticks flat to their heads when they are fagged with walking, the excitement would be almost unbearable.

The atmosphere is one of phoney war, I suppose. Every morning, you wake up with a jolt and think "It's started!" And then you think, "No, hang on, and sink back strangely upset. Personally, I realise I've been artificially enhancing the suspense of waiting for tomorrow by blanking out all references to the American players, thus preserving their exotic mystery. 'Oh look, Americans!' I can say tomorrow. 'Well howdy doody, is Tiger here?' Accidentally spotting Scott Hoch on the driving range yesterday, I could only identify him by reading his name on his bag. Exactly as it should be, I thought, and instantly wiped out all memory of his face.

With the Europeans, on the other hand, one's attitude grows daily more unconditional approving, as though they were pet lambs or something. Look, there's Monty and Woosie and, er, Langerie and Parnievik! In the galleries, we chat in banal fashion — "those yellow shirts are nice, aren't they?" "Yes, but the green shirts yesterday were very nice, too." In the distance, on the practice ground, Woosie and Seve and the boys exchange banter and I laugh along, even though I can't hear what they're saying. Odd, when you think about it.

Yesterday was another practice day, identical to Tuesday, but the crowd was gearing up for the competition with more applause and big-

LYNNE TRUSS



At Valderrama

ger galleries, some of them gladly muscled a sandwich instead of fainting with hunger as before.

It was one such, eager member of the public, carrying a home-made periscope (cardboard tube, sticky tape), who inspired me to visit the shop beside the 4th green and purchase for a mere 8,500 pesetas (or £35) an extendable periscope of my own. What larks, eh? It goes up, it goes down, but you can't do that funny thing of shutting your thumbs in the handles. An absolutely vital piece of equipment, however, with hours of entertainment built in.

I've always fancied a periscope for a golf tournament, in any case — I'm a Wise Virgin type by temperament, and have admired the people who use them in matches shown on the telly. So much more elegant than carrying a great big stepladder about; cheaper, too, than hiring a forklift truck. In the press-room, if spirits flag, I can now say "Hey! I've got an idea, let's play with my periscope!" followed by "Hey, where did everybody go?"

Out on the course, the Americans were doubtless pursuing golfing activity of

some kind (I didn't look) but the Europeans were dabbling in foursomes, bless their hearts. Foursomes is that outlandish practice by which team-mates take alternate shots and the whole thing moves along like a dose of salts on wheels with the wind behind it. The only problem with watching their foursomes yesterday was that this game looks like friendly exhibition rather than real golf. For example, Bjornie (as we now call him) hit his first tee-shot into the trees. Monty rescued it brilliantly; smiles all round, even from Westwoody. You see?

I keep thinking it's started but it hasn't. But just wait till tomorrow. Boy oh boy. Being here, the hype is oddly attached to nothing at all, just "wait till Friday and meanwhile buy a periscope if you want to make your own entertainment". I loved the team photo session, but what must the players feel? Not a ball struck in anger yet and already the yellow and green shirts used up. Tomorrow, you can forget those first-day nerves. They will attack the ball like ravenous wolves and we shall all say "Hooray, hooray".

Meanwhile, there's time to notice that, aside from the black-and-yellow Johnnie Walker symbol everywhere you look, there's no sponsorship allowed. No Nike hats, no Pringle woolies. For some of these guys, being on the Ryder Cup team must feel like going into prison and having your personal effects confiscated by the admissions officer.

So roll on tomorrow. Sadly, a colleague has just pointed out to me that my lovely periscope resembles an offensive weapon — crushing news, but kindly meant. When tomorrow comes, and I draw it from its pistol-shaped leatherette case, it appears I may be rugby-tackled at the 1st green and frogmarched to Gibraltar. Amazingly, I am still looking forward to it, however.

## Three wise men keep team stable

FROM MEL WEBB

ASK Severiano Ballesteros to hit a golf ball over a ten-foot high wall from a distance of six feet or through a small forest while kneeling down, and he will do it — and has — as though it were no more difficult than bending down to pick up the morning paper. There is one talent, however, that even *El Gran Señor* still does not have, and that is the ability to be in two places at once. Enter Team Ballesteros.

When the big decisions are made at Valderrama this week, Ballesteros will be on his own, and that is the way he would want it: never in his life has he dodged the taking of responsibility. But he will not be alone and isolated in the making of those decisions, for beside him he has three aides-de-camp who, between them, can boast three parts of a century of golfing know-how. Ballesteros's lieutenants here are the vice-captain, Miguel Angel Jimenez, Mark James and Tommy Horton. As the temperature inside heads and hearts has risen among the Europe team this week, the gang of three have been constantly at their sides, reassuring, cajoling, encouraging, sympathising.

They have to be all things to all the leading characters in this sporting grand opera. They are Ballesteros's eyes and ears by proxy and a mixture of coach, counsellor and confidant to the players, all working to the common cause of making the whole greater than its constituent parts.

Like the captain himself, James and Jimenez are new to the subtle arts of leading from outside the ropes. Solid and dependable, both as players and people, they provide a calming counterpoint to the passion and fire that burns within the Ballesteros belly. "I see my strength as being close to the players because I'm still out there, playing alongside them, on a weekly basis," James said. "I feel pretty close to them, the young

ones included, and I'd like to feel that, if they are particularly happy with a pairing — or not for that matter — they can come to me and I'll listen. In that way, I suppose, I am a sort of a conduit, a link between the players and Seve.

In the practice days, I'm assessing all the pairings and reporting back to Seve. He has his ideas as to what he wants, but, if things are not working, we mustn't be afraid to tell him.

"Once the match has started, it's even more important for us to be out there. Seve can't be with everybody. His role is to take the overview of things, so it's up to us to let him know how things are going."

Horton brings different qualities to the team. A player in 1975 and 1977, he has been involved in a back-room capacity in every match since. When wisdom born of vast experience is called for, this week, Ballesteros could wish for no better adviser.

They are a formidable quartet, four components of a computer that is programmed to produce the correct answer to any given question. They will get things wrong this week, for they are only human. If they do it too often, they will surely be held to account. If they do not, the praise will be hard earned. No, Ballesteros cannot be in two places at once; but he knows three men who can.



James: close to players

## Mickelson dips into his box of tricks

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES

LEE JANZEN, who formed a promising double act with Brad Faxon in their joint post-practice press conference here yesterday, admitted that the Americans had a few jokers in their team but revealed that he was keeping a particularly wary eye on Phil Mickelson. "He's scheming something," Janzen said. "I'm trying to keep close to him so I'm not the one who gets it." On close inspection, the left-handed Mickelson does have a bit of a wicked glint in his eye and he showed that he was game for a laugh with a classic bit of showmanship on the golf course.

Mickelson was playing with Tiger Woods, Fred Couples and Davis Love III. The 27-year-old has long been expected to end Bob Charles's career as a quizmaster's quintessential sporting quirk (the only left-hander to win a major championship), but, unlike his playing partners, he has yet to win that elusive major title. Couples won the Masters in 1992. Woods sneaked home at Augusta this year and the paint has yet to dry (along with some of the tears) on Love's US PGA Championship at Winged Foot last month. Yet Mickelson left no one watching in any doubt that he belonged in such company.

At the 17th, where there was a big, multinational crowd drawing its own conclusions about Seve's hole (Ballesteros's redesign in 1993 has been praised and condemned, not necessarily in equal measure — Mickelson thought it a great par four rather than a par five), the left-hander was the star turn.

First, he holed out with a wedge from the fairway, then, to the delight of the spectators, he and Woods demonstrated the art of the flop shot from the fringe at the back of the green to a pin a few yards away — too little flop and the ball was likely to run back down the hill into the water, too much and it would stay at the edge of the green.

As the players turned to give a voice yelled: "Hit it backwards." There was a pause — and puzzlement. The voice yelled again: "Hit it backwards." A brief discussion followed and Mickelson placed his ball on the grass beside one of the bunkers in the hill behind the green.

He then faced away from the green, looked back to check that Woods was safely out of the line of fire and, opening the face of the club, hit the ball high in the air, over his own head on to the green. There was pandemonium after this piece of prestidigitation, a party trick that Mickelson used to practise in the back yard at home.

It will now be discussed in golf club bars all over Europe but not one hopes, attempted. Woods, Couples and Love, temporarily eclipsed, just laughed. Mickelson was the man of the moment and, when things get more serious, there is every chance that he will turn out to be one of the men of the match.

## Calculating captains measure stomach for a fight

Per-Ulrik Johansson hits an average of 200,000 golf balls a year, but he will never forget the single shot that was physically beyond him. The terror struck precisely 12 minutes before he was due to make the opening drive of his Ryder Cup debut, and his brain ordered his body to surrender.

"It doesn't really matter who hits the first shot, does it?" he asked his foursomes partner, Bernhard Langer, as they gathered themselves on the practice tee at Oak Hill two years ago. The German, recognising the hint of panic in his hushed tones, instantly accepted the responsibility.

He allowed Johansson to ease his way into the match with a routine mid-iron from the sanctuary of the 1st fairway, and the pair went on to

defeat Ben Crenshaw and Curtis Strange. "You want to be a little nervous out there, but not out of control," the Swede acknowledged with a bashful smile yesterday morning. He knows, as well as anyone, the complexity of the mind games that decide winners of the Ryder Cup.

It is easy to fret, but far better to make a friend of fear. That sanitises stress, puts peer pressure into perspective. "The best thing about the Ryder Cup is you put yourself in the position to get scared to death about how you are going to perform," Tom Kite, the United States captain, insisted with the quiet desperation of a timeshare salesman from Montserrat. "People don't understand how wonderful that feeling is."

Hmm. According to Ian

## Michael Calvin suggests that it will be mental as anything when the 1st tee beckons the players tomorrow

Woosnam, "you feel like you're going to throw up". Davis Love III observed, with equal delicacy: "There are times you're so nervous you can't spit." The respective captains might attempt to project the inner peace of Buddhist monks, but the intestinal tracts of their teams are a more reliable gauge of reality.

"I felt the players could handle things as long as I didn't portray a defeatist attitude," Bernard Gallacher, who is no longer bound by the conventions of the Europe team captaincy, said. "It was up to me to give an impression of calm, even though, underneath that facade, all I felt was panic."

Severiano Ballesteros, his successor, is a little less circumspect. He is impulsive, emotional, and cannot be true to himself until Sunday night. He is a bohemian acting as a bank manager, and it cannot last.

"He'll be running around everywhere like a headless chicken," Woosnam laughed. "It's good for the young guys to see someone so excited. It might just give them a buzz."

The process of integrating the Ryder rookies poses a delicate psychological dilemma. Unfulfilled ambition burns in the eyes of young men such as Darren Clarke, Lee Westwood and Ignacio Garrido, who played with Nick Faldo yesterday. Their body language registered private concerns. Imaginary slights, suppressed emotions.

Clarke's demeanour, during his initial partnership with fellow newcomer Garrido, suggested he felt that his chances of early selection had faded dramatically. Westwood, one of his closest friends on tour, radiated similar unease alongside Faldo.

Officials radioed Ballesteros for permission to change the teams to enable Faldo to play with the similarly meticulous Garrido for the rest of the round. "You've got to put them under your wings, shield them from the bulls, and let them be themselves," Faldo said. "It helps if you let a rookie free-wheel."

There are 66 possible permutations that the captains can come up with today, when they announce the pairings for



Johansson: terror struck before Ryder Cup debut

the opening set of fourball matches, and each is a distinctive blend of human chemistry. This is their equivalent of stepping on to the 1st tee, the point of no return.

By day, Ballesteros has been prowling the course, his brow knotted in a perpetual frown. He has been waking in the night, and making notes in a small, blue, hardbacked book. "I've been researching the chemistry," he said. "You can tell how players feel by the way they look at each other, the way they talk to each other. I write down how they play, how nervous they are."

Kite, a different animal, is more clinical. His information is stored in a small laptop

computer, and contains such meteorological minutiae as the wind strength and direction at the course over the past 300 days. "I know I'm going to get second guessed," he said. "It doesn't bother or intimidate me."

Fred Couples was happy to supply guidance. "You need to be comfortable with your partner," he stressed. "Saying sorry all day long, and telling people not to worry, is not what you want."

"That happens because you're not familiar with the guy. You're begging yourself to hit it straight, and that's hard. It kinda wears on you." Phil Mickelson, his practice partner, accepts that concessions have to be made to individualism. "Each guy is different," he argued.

"With Fred, you just let him do his thing. You don't need to rah-rah him to victory. He knows how to get there. Some players need more motivation to get excited. Others need to calm down."

Sometimes, Ballesteros cannot help himself. He was obliged to pose with the Cup with Tom Kite at one of the many pre-match functions this week. "This is as close as you'll get to this," Ballesteros said through his smile. Kite laughed, but the point had been made. As Per-Ulrik Johansson can testify, this is serious stuff.

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# THE RYDER CUP

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Starts tomorrow, Valderrama, live on Sky

## TOP EUROPEAN POINT SCORER

3/1	Montgomerie
6/1	Faldo
6/1	Langer
8/1	Olazabal
8/1	Woosnam
9/1	Westwood
11/1	Parnievik
12/1	Clarke
14/1	Rocca
16/1	Johansson
20/1	Bjorn
33/1	Garrido

EW. one quarter the odds a place 1,2,3

## TOP U.S.A. POINT SCORER

10/3	Woods
6/1	Leonard
6/1	Mickelson
13/2	Lehman
8/1	Love
9/1	O'Meara
11/1	Couples
12/1	Furyk
16/1	Hoch
20/1	Faxon
20/1	Maggert
20/1	Janzen

EW. one quarter the odds a place 1,2,3

E.W. one quarter the odds a place 1, 2, 3. U.S.A. one quarter the odds a place 1, 2, 3. PRICES ALSO AVAILABLE ON TOWNSEND'S FORMALS, SPOONERS AND TIGER CORRECT SCORES. LATEST ODDS ON UMBRELLA IN THE TV TEXT - Select on CHU (R120000)

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# Merson finds a new direction far from home

## Pallister pro referee's s

After watching a video of the incident, Durkin admitted that he had got it wrong. "Paul Durkin decided he wanted to look at a video of the match before he filled in his report," an FA spokesman said yesterday. "On the video he saw the incident from a different angle and he has

## Profits from screen test

Durkin's decision is another illustration of the new mood within the FA, which increasingly has allowed video evidence to be used in the defence of players. In the past the English game's governing body had flatly refused to allow television recordings to aid an accused party's case.

Tottenham Hotspur drew 1-1 against Barnsley at Oakwell. Chris Armstrong's second-half header cancelling out Alan Thompson's twentieth-minute penalty. It was Armstrong's first goal for almost 11 months, much of which he has spent recovering from injuries. "I've spent a long time sitting at home thinking about this moment," he said. "It was great to knock it in."

## Craig puts accent on widening horizons

He describes himself as "an exporter of racing", but it is a trade fraught with difficulties, demanding the delicate balance of the global imperative against the innate insularity of the American market; Craig handles it with a silken dexterity and hear-



Eurosport, the pan-European satellite television broadcaster which covers the series, is reaping the benefit of the continental drift in the drivers' standings, providing a further ringing endorsement of Craig's stated ambition of "attracting more people to the track and more people to the television".

This particular American dream, albeit one made in Britain, lives on.

ONTIN'S LEAGUE: First division: |

Chalmers appeared to have become the favourite once more this season when Townsend, at Northampton, and Hodge, at Edinburgh, were not selected at fly-half for recent European Conference ties, but were chosen instead at centre.

□ The Dutch rider, Leon van Bon, edged out Laurent Bochart, of France, to win a sprint finish to the eighteenth stage of the Tour of Spain yesterday.

a. A dragon  
b. Part of a canon  
c. A major scholar at Emmanuel

a. A large panham  
b. A silver coin  
c. Duodecimal algebra

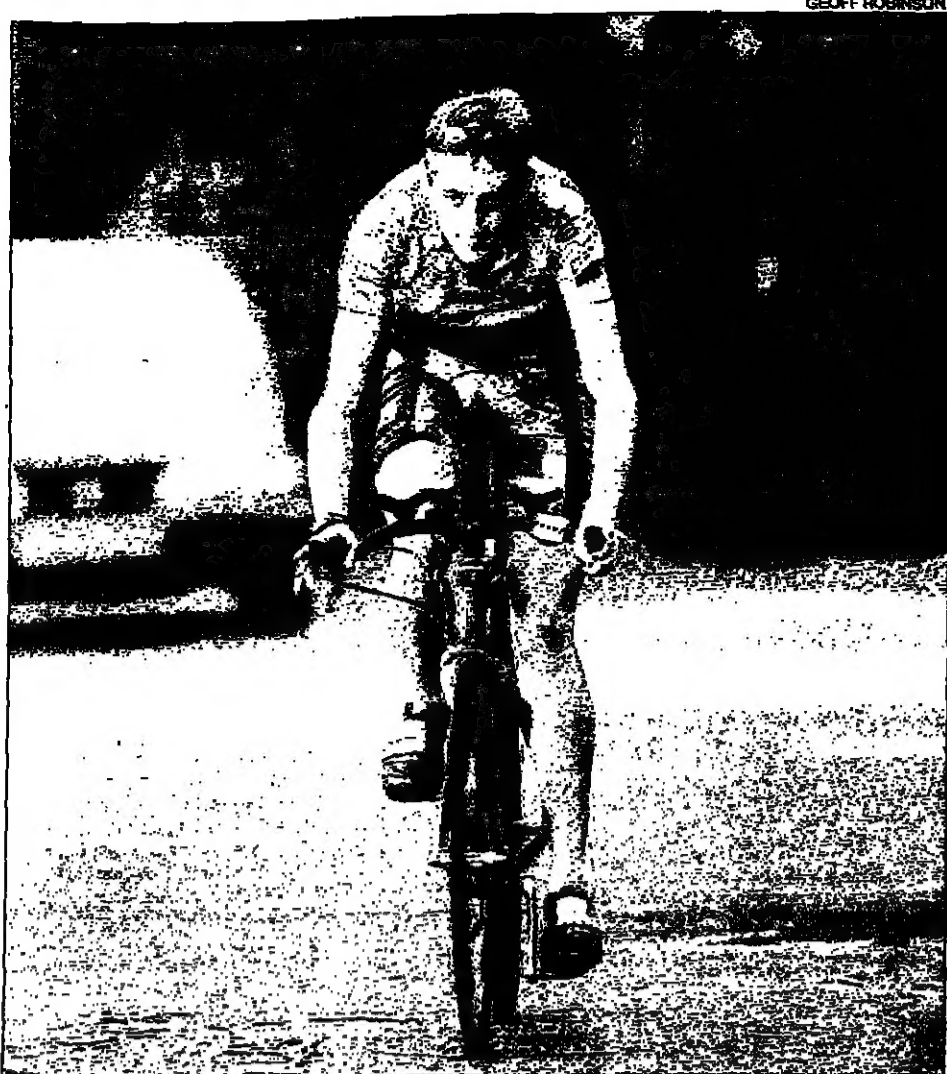
FASCET  
a. "Let it be done"  
b. A Roman rod  
c. A bottle-carrier

GAYDIANG  
a. A homosexual party  
b. A Burmese diacritic  
c. A kind of junk

Answers on page 46

**Solution on page 46**





Adams has little alternative but to train for his record attempt on the roads, while in-line skating is another sport poorly catered for

## Cyclists find nowhere to ride

The latest sport for some of our policemen, it seems, is harassing people for "exercising furiously" on the highway.

It always used to be said that one of the great social values of sport was that it kept kids off the streets. But you should try telling that to Tony Adams or the army of in-line skaters who hone their hearts, lungs and legs on the parks and pavements of our land.

Adams is the Cambridge cyclist who this week fell foul of an obscure 150-year-old law drafted to deal with horsemen galloping too quickly. He was prosecuted for "cycling furiously" after police spotted him in the early hours of the morning in training for an attempt on one of the toughest of cycling records.

He was doing about 25mph in a 30mph zone but, while drivers could carve him up without breaking the speed limit, he was pulled in for flouting an ancient horse law.



says that he wants to attack the one-hour record, held by Chris Boardman, of Britain, the former Olympic pursuit champion, who covered 56.38 kilometres (just over 35 miles) in the Manchester Velodrome a year ago.

This is a record much envied and respected in France, where the gendarmes would wave aside the traffic and cheer any cyclist bold enough to train for a crack at it.

Here, though, Adams faces up to three months in prison after refusing to pay the £120 fine slapped on him for offending the Town Police Clauses Act of 1847. He was stopped on one of his regular training

routes and it was the early hours of the morning, prompting the question, if he cannot train for his record attempt on the roads, where in Britain can he work out?

For a country that has probably the poorest provision of dedicated cycling paths in Europe, it is remarkable that Britain produces any competitive cyclists. They are not alone among would-be sportsmen and women who are attracting the hostile attention of the authorities because they have nowhere else to exercise.

The most hated are in-line skaters, of whom there are now millions worldwide. In the United States, they rule the parks, in London the pavements, in Paris the streets. There are plenty who would like to see them banned.

The speed of in-line skaters in Hyde Park has already been measured, using radar guns. They have been clocked exceeding 20mph and there has been a lobby to restrict or ban their activities. It cannot be long before some ancient

law is dug up to turn the streets into a no-go area for them.

However, like the Lycra brigade of bicycle couriers who tear around the streets of our cities, the in-line skaters are one of the few groups who look like healthy sportsmen in training. Only small and elite

groups of professional sportsmen and women can match them for strength, co-ordination and endurance.

Ironically, the Sports Council this week chose Cambridge (where you can end up in court for cycling too vigorously) to hold a convention on the dangers of the sedentary lifestyle of the young. Four hundred delegates from schools and local authorities were warned that lack of exercise among school pupils was creating "an obesity time bomb".

The Sports Council called for a minimum of two hours' exercise a week for children, and quoted figures saying that the average youngster now walks 50 miles a year fewer than a decade ago — and cycles ten miles a year fewer.

However, with so many of our playing fields sold off, and with parks covered in "No ball games" and "No skating" signs, it is no wonder that the streets become their playgrounds.

The police are rightly worried about safety, but if we are genuinely concerned about the health, weight and sporting prowess of our young, there must be more safe and dedicated areas for the bladders, the cyclists and the runners who are now forced to share the streets with the traffic.

There is much talk of vast sums of National Lottery money being doled out to improve the standard of British sport, so why not put some of it into providing off-the-street facilities for a sport like in-line skating? For all its trendy image, many might think it more of a genuine sport than, say, ballroom dancing, and anyone who thinks that it is just a passing fad should be aware that the first in-line skates appeared in the 1700s.

In 1760, Joseph Merlino, a member of the Dutch Royal Academy of Sciences and a maker of musical instruments, turned up on his wheeled skates in a London ballroom, playing the violin. As he hurtled towards a large mirror, he discovered that it was impossible to turn or brake on his new invention. Merlino survived. The violin and the mirror did not.

Today, if we are going to survive as a nation of players, rather than spectators, we are going to have to supply the sporting facilities for our young, to keep them off the streets. The police might not like it, but British sport needs a lot more people "exercising furiously".

JOHN BRYANT

### WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 45

FEN

(b) A section in Avicenna's Canon. From the Arabic *fann* a species or class. Chaucer, *The Pardoner's Tale*, circa 1386: "I suppose that Avicenna wrote never in canon, as in our fen! No wonder sorrow."

GAYDIANG

(c) An Angkor (Vietnamese) vessel, somewhat resembling a Chinese junk. "The Gaydiang is a vessel of Annam [sic], generally with two, but in fine weather with three masts with lofty triangular sails."

GROSCHEN

(b) Before the establishment of the present German monetary system, a small silver coin and money of account, variously 1/24, 1/30, or 1/36 of a dollar. From the Middle High German *groß*, grosse, Carlyle, *Sartor Resartus*, 1831: "Their flag, had you sold it at any market-cross, would not have brought above three groschen."

FASCET

(c) A tool used to introduce glass bottles into the annealing oven. Merrett, *Neri's Art of Glass*, 1662: "Fascets are Irons thrust into the bottle to carry them to azeal."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1.04-01 involves the double threats of Kb2 and Rd5 mate. Black has no good reply.

## A new comic triangle

Dad

BBC1 8.30pm

The traditionally twitchy triangle of grandfather, father and son is the basis for Andrew Marshall's new six-part comedy. If you liked his *Point of View* Children you should like this even better because, if nothing else, *Dad* is a vehicle for George Cole, returning to BBC comedy after a gap of 20 years. He plays Brian, the kind of benevolent fustpot we love to hate — the man who never listens, insists he knows all the answers and in fact knows just enough to infuriate his family. Son Allan is played by Kevin McNally with a fine sense of comic timing even though most of what he must do is stare askance at his father and his own son's (Toby Ross-Bryant) apparent failure to make contact with the real world. His wife Beryl (Julia Hills) is the gentle force which binds them all together.

The Uninvited

ITV 9.00pm

Just when you thought there were no further storylines to be wrung from aliens and outer space along comes Peter Bowker with a straight-faced account — in four one-hour chunks — of how an alien force just could be infiltrating human society. Not such a stretch until you see the techniques the "force" uses — such as tipping whole villages into the sea with the miraculous survival of all the villagers, who then begin to rise to positions of eminence in the land. Leslie Grantham, who supplied the original idea, plays the village cop who now rides high in the police establishment and is apparently chummy with British Nuclear Power and the Ministry of Defence. Watch for an absolutely mesmerising underwater sequence when the hero of the piece — a nosy photographer played by Douglas Hodge — investigates for himself the mysteries of the village under the sea.

Horizon: Out of Asia

BBC2 9.25pm

It's lovely when a programme turns accepted wisdom on its ear — and *Horizon* does it so elegantly. For those who thought that man originated in Africa and gradually spread north, Australian archaeologists, anthropologists and geneticists have got news. Their idea is that not



Clarke and Hemingway (BBC1 9.30pm)

only could we have originated in South-East Asia but that *Homo erectus* (now thought to be a direct ancestor and not an evolutionary dead end) used tools and was capable of travelling from Java (Java Man) to Australia. This places him at more than one million years old — and the programme has the fossils and much more to prove it. The inevitable sceptics are on hand to mutter through their beards about "inconclusive evidence" but you get carried along with the flow and the implications — that our origins may not be with Mother Africa at all — are breathtaking.

The Locksmith

BBC1 9.30pm

"Round The Clock With That Lock" is the slogan on Roland's van and Roland himself comes across as a very law-abiding solid citizen — caught on a T by the excellent Warren Clarke, who is ably assisted in the comedy stakes by his gormless helper Barry (Chris Gascoyne). But Stephen Bill's six-part series is no comedy and as events evolve a darker, even dangerous side to Roland's character emerges as he takes on the role of a vigilante out to get the dangerous, masked burglar whose break-ins link each move forward in the plot — a plot which includes Roland and his wife coming together again when their vagrant daughter is found in a hippy commune. Polly Hemingway plays Roland's girlfriend.

RADIO CHOICE

Out of Order

Radio 4 12.25pm

One sector of the schedules that ought not to need the attention of the size recently sharpened by James Boyle, Controller of Radio 4, is the lunchtime slot during which the audience starts to build ahead of *The World at One*. The half-hour is populated with several series that have become well established, including *Out of Order*, returning for its 13th series. The core purpose is simultaneously to illuminate and debunk the wider shores of political life, a purpose that ought to be (and clearly is) in tune with the wishes of the audience. The team captains are again Austin Mitchell, the Labour MP, and Michael White, the political writer. Guests in the series include Gerald Kaufman, Chris Mullin and Edwin Currie.

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe Breakfast Show 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiteley 12.30pm Newsbeat 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier 6.15 Newsbeat 8.30 Evening Session with Steve Lamacq Includes music by the Longpigs 9.00 John Peel 10.30 David Allen's Country Club 10.45 A review of the latest cinema releases, with Andrew Marr 11.00 John Peel Live music from the Sound City Festival in Oxford 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00am Chris Warren 4.00 Chris Moyles

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 8.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jock Macleod 1.00pm Debbie Thompson 2.00pm Steve Lamacq 3.00pm The Desperate Housewives Show 5.30pm The News Hour with Roy Hudd, June Whitfield and Chris Emmett 10.00am The Day 10.30 Richard Ainsworth 12.00am Steve Macdonald 3.00am Alex Lester

RADIO 3 LIVE

6.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 9.00 The Magazine 12.00 Midday 2.00pm Ruscoe on Five 4.00 Nationwide 7.00 News Extra 7.30 The Ryder Cup Years, in the last of the series "Tom Adams takes a look at Europe's recent successes in the 70-year-old competition" 8.00 Inside Edge, Kathryn Robinson with sporting news, including the stories behind the Ryder Cup in Valderrama 8.00 Sportsworld with Alan Parry 10.30 Sportsman's Club 11.00 News Extra with Valerie Sanderson 12.00 After Hours with Paul Henrett and Sheila Macdonald 2.00am Up All Night with Rhod Sharp

TALK RADIO

6.30am Paul Ross and Carol McGiffin 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Dinkley 7.00 Anna Ræburn 9.00 James White 1.00am Ian Collins

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor, includes Chopin (Nocturne in F sharp minor), Respighi (Pines of Rome), Verdi (Overture Un Giorno di Regno), Debussy (Jeux), Bernstein (Overture Candide), Beethoven (Sinfonia in D) 9.00 Morning Collection, with Penny Gore, includes Bolshoi (Concerto in E minor), Schubert (Des Ruchlings), Grieg (Lyric Pieces), Liszt (Mazeppe) 10.00 Musical Encounters, with Nicola Heywood Thomas, including Bach (Double Violin Concerto in D minor), Mozart (Flute Serenade), Mahler (Loben, Zaiden), Webern (Passacaglia), Stravinsky (Sinfonia in D minor), conductor Rachmaninov (Piano Concerto No 3 in D minor), Strauss (Mein Herr Kinde; Frühlingsfeier) 12.00 Composer of the Week: Pärtel, introduced by Susan Sharpe 1.00pm In Repertory, The Times opera critic, Rodney Milnes, talks to the German baritone Franz Grundheber about the title role in Berg's *Wozzeck*. Featuring a recording of the opera he made with Daniel Barenboim conducting 2.00 The BBC Orchestras, Brahms (Variations on a Theme by Haydn); Sibelius (Symphony No 6); Elgar (Cello Concerto in E minor), conductor Osmo Vänskä; Mahler (Sinfonia, cello, Tchaikovsky (Symphony No 2 in C minor, Little Russian), conductor Martyn Brabbins 4.00 Beethoven, Pärtel Cure introduces a recital by Louis Blake, cello, and Iwan Linnell-Jones, piano, Bach (Solo Cello Suite No 1 in G); Mendelssohn (Cello Sonata No 1 in B flat) (r)

RADIO 4

5.55am (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.45 A Boy at the Hogarth Press: Jennie Glover reads Richard Kennedy's classic memoir (4/5) 8.55 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Face the Facts, with John Wate 9.30 Look Homeward, Angel, Kim Montanari asks questions of identity and tells stories of culture shock from a child's perspective (2/3) 10.00 News; One Flat Summer (FM), by Dave Sheehy, with Gerard McDermott as Ken and Gillian Seven as Margaret (9/6) 10.10 Daily Service (LW) 10.15 On This Day (LW) 10.30 Women's Hour, with Jenni Murray 11.30 Frontline, independent, Reports from BBC correspondents around the world 12.00 News; You and Yours, with Mark Whitaker 12.25pm Out of Order, See Choice 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke 1.40 The Archers 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News; Thursday Afternoon Play: Fossils, by Andy Rattenbury, See Choice 3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift, with Derek Braham 4.00 News; 4.05 Kaleidoscope, Paul Allen sees a new play, *Oedipus Thurno*, at the West Yorkshire Playhouse, and reads a history of the British railway 4.45 Short Story: The World Covered in Gold, by Philip Kerr, read by Paul McGann 5.00 PM with Christine Lee-Potter and Chris Lowe 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather

Thursday Afternoon Play: Fossils

Radio 4 2.00pm

Poppy Miller is a young actress new to radio but she plays Lou, the leading role in this intriguing play, with a sureness of touch that suggests more will be heard of her before long. The same could be said for the writer, Andy Rattenbury, whose first radio play this is. The title works nicely in several respects — on several layers, so to speak — for it concerns Lou's return home after ten years abroad as she attempts to unravel the life of her father, a palaeontologist who has come to haunt Lou's dreams and therefore becomes the obsessive focus of her waking life. This and Lou's related need to deal with the anxiety of her living family become the keys to unlocking the grisly truth.

WORLD SERVICE

6.00am Newsday 6.30 Europe Today 7.00 News 7.15 World Today 7.30 Mervyn Dunsen 8.00 News 8.15 On the Spot 8.30 Composer of the Month 8.00 News, News in German (6/8 only) 8.15 Pause for Thought 8.15 East-Parade by a Bear 8.25 Psychologically Speaking 8.30 The Question of the Day 10.00 Business 10.15 Home in the Heart 10.30 BBC English 10.45 Sport 11.00 Newsday 11.30 Discovery 12.00 Newsday 12.30pm Learning World 12.45 From Our Own Correspondent 1.00 Newsday 1.30 News 1.45 World Service 1.55 Britain Today 2.00 News 2.15 Record News 2.45 Sport 2.00 Newsday 3.00 News 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Multitrack X-Press 4.00 News 4.05 Sport 4.15 East-Parade by a Bear 4.25 Psychologically Speaking 4.30 John Peel; News in German (6/8 only) 4.45 Sport 4.50 Newsday 5.00 Britain Today 5.05 News 5.15 World Today 5.30 Record News; News in German (6/8 only) 5.45 Sport 5.50 Newsday 5.55 Plants of Power 6.00 News Summary 6.01 Outlook 6.25 Pause for Thought 6.30 John Peel 6.35 Newsday 6.40 News 6.45 Business 10.15 Britain Today 10.30 Newsday 11.00 Newsday 11.30 World Today 11.45 Sport 12.00 News 12.05pm Outlook 12.30 Vintage Chart Show 1.00 Newsday 1.30 East-Parade by a Bear 1.40 Psychologically Speaking 1.45 Britain Today 2.00 Newsday 2.30 The Voice 2.45 Newsday 3.30 Focus on Faith 4.00 News 4.05 Business 4.15 Sport 4.30 Europe Today 5.00 Newsday 5.30 Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Alan Mann 8.00 Henry Kelly 1.00pm Listener Request Hour 2.00 Concerto 3.00 James Clegg 7.00 Newsnight 7.30 Sonnets, Faure (Cello Sonata No 2 in G minor) 8.00 Evening Concert, includes Weber (Clarinet Concerto No 2 in F minor); Brahms (Nacht) 8.30 Mark in Italy 10.00 Michael Knapton 2.00am Concerto (r) 3.00 Mark Griffiths

VIRGIN RADIO

7.00am Russ and John's Breakfast Experience 10.00 Graham Dene 1.00pm Jeremy Clark 4.00 Nicky Home 7.00 Nicky Abbott 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00am Richard Porter

RADIO 3

4.45 Music Machine, with Verity Sharp 5.00 In Tune, Sean Rafferty and guests join in the 70th birthday celebrations of Sir Colin Davis, the principal conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra, includes music from the Boston Symphony Orchestra performing Sibelius's seventh symphony 7.30 Performance on 3, Live from Huddersfield Town Hall with Louise Wintler, mezzo, Nigel Robson, tenor, Jonathan Summers, bass, English Northern Philharmonia under Paul Daniel, Walton (Gloria); Holloway (Concerto for Orchestra No 2) 8.25 Beethoven, A story by Penelope Fitzgerald commissioned by Radio 3 and BBC Music Magazine 8.45 Walton (Beethoven's Feast) 9.45 Postscript: Welsh, To mark 100 years since the birth of William Faulkner, Ron Berglas reads stories set in Faulkner's mythical Mississippi of Vicks, Christopher Wilson, Lita, Dowland's Lachrimae or Silver Tears is performed with meditations on the stages of a journey written by Anthony Hooley and read by David Thomas (2/6) 10.45 Night Waves, Patrick Wright profiles Kurt Vonnegut's new book, *Salvage*, which imagines a world facing a global irregularities in 2001 11.30 Composer of the Week: Clement (r) 12.30am Newsday, Digby Fairweather is joined by the single pianist Ralph Sadler in Italy 10.00 Michael Knapton 2.00am Concerto (r) 3.00 Mark Griffiths

RADIO 4

5.55am (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.45 A Boy at the Hogarth Press: Jennie Glover reads Richard Kennedy's classic memoir (4/5) 8.55 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Face the Facts, with John Wate 9.30 Look Homeward, Angel, Kim Montanari asks questions of identity and tells stories of culture shock from a child's perspective (2/3) 10.00 News; One Flat Summer (FM), by Dave Sheehy, with Gerard McDermott as Ken and Gillian Seven as Margaret (9/6) 10.10 Daily Service (LW) 10.15 On This Day (LW) 10.30 Women's Hour, with Jenni Murray 11.30 Frontline, independent, Reports from BBC correspondents around the world 12.00 News; You and Yours, with Mark Whitaker 12.25pm Out of Order, See Choice 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke 1.40 The Archers 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News; Thursday Afternoon Play: Fossils, by Andy Rattenbury, See Choice 3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift, with Derek Braham 4.00 News; 4.05 Kaleidoscope, Paul Allen sees a new play, *Oedipus Thurno*, at the West Yorkshire Playhouse, and reads a history of the British railway 4.45 Short Story: The World Covered in Gold, by Philip Kerr, read by Paul McGann 5.00 PM with Christine Lee-Potter and Chris Lowe 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1, FM 97.8-99.5. RADIO 2, FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.8. LW 158; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE, MW 893, 909. WORLD SERVICE, MW 648; LW 135 (12.15-5.56am). CLASSIC FM, FM 100.102. VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1218. TALK RADIO, MW 1053, 1069. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Higgins, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

Something  
Funny Is  
Happening  
In L.A.



tonight at 9pm on 5



# Sea-faring yarn unravels before our eyes

You can't say that ITV shrinks from a scheduling challenge, because it certainly aced it in interrupting the flow of last night's two-hour drama, *The Ebb Tide*, half-way through. By handing over to *News At Ten* midway, ITV gave us a chance to pause, to reflect and then to surprise ourselves by the unfamiliar conclusions we had reached. Principally, the conclusion that even news highlights of the Liberal Democrats' annual conference in Eastbourne can seem magnetic: it all depends what you're comparing them to. Since yesterday happened to be the day of the party leader's conference speech, we also appreciated that even someone as imaginative as Spielberg would find it tough to match Paddy Ashdown when it comes to portraying a fantastical world that bears no plausible relation to reality but which, for a harmless couple of hours, bewitches us by its audacity. And *The Ebb Tide* wasn't even Spielberg.

Let's be positive: if you have ever lost sleep at night, worrying about why this Robert Louis Stevenson short story hadn't yet been turned into a television drama, at least now you know the answer.

*The Ebb Tide* was a slight story made slighter — paradoxically — by the fact that someone had decided to make a big fuss about it. It withered under the hot lights of attention. Having spotted Robbie Coltrane being interviewed on television the other day, and learnt that he had a passionate interest in the workings of all kinds of engines, you might assume he would have searched out the motor driving this film. Did he ever locate it? To me, it all seemed as gripping as loose knicker elastic.

Coltrane is rarely less than engaging. He served ably enough as Captain Chisholm, who sails a decrepit ship from the Caribbean

towards Australia, with a dubious cargo of vintage champagne. But Coltrane didn't seem as sharp as he has been in the roles — that recently Fitz in *Cracker* — that presumably led to his being offered this part in the first place.

Or maybe he was embarrassed by the script, which clicked every time it clicked the plot forward. "Estece you as one family?" Captain Chisholm was asked one evening, out of the blue, by a black galleyslave who had just delivered Chisholm's supper to him on deck.

"Do I have a family? Ooh yes," replied Chisholm as he launched into one of those expository speeches that sound as natural as Margaret Thatcher singing *Won't You Come Home Bill Bailey?*

"Yes, I've got a wee girl called Adar. Her mother named her that. Her mother Fiona. She came from the Hebridean islands off the west

## REVIEW



Joe Joseph

coast of Scotland. You don't understand a word I'm saying, son, do you? No he doesn't, but don't let that stop you, capt'n. It didn't.

"Adar. It wasn't a name I'd heard of either till that wee girl was born. A bonny thing she was, too. She had red hair from her mother, cascading down her body like waves. A wee angel..." Oh, you get the picture. You and your expected, him to say, as your

history master used to: "You may take notes if you wish."

Things go wrong when Chisholm discovers that the champagne bottles are empty, that the hull is rotten, and that he has been gullied into captaining the vessel as part of some insurance fraud.

Coltrane locks himself in his cabin and gets blind drunk. Why? Luckily, Chisholm's wistful of a sidekick Billy Bunch was on hand to enlighten us: "This is exactly what happened before, when he went mad... his daughter and his wife took it all. Maybe they shouldn't have been at sea with him together. Anyway, the baby recovered, but his wife died. I've never seen a man go mad with grief. After she died, he drank himself mad. Then, we ran aground. Chisholm was blind drunk. Twenty-seven people lost their lives. The wee baby girl survived. She's back in Scotland now. Adar. She must be five years

old now." OK everyone, you can put your notebooks down again.

If you can believe it, things then got even worse. "That cloud does not look good," said the galley slave. This was an understatement. It looked like God had split a year's supply of Quikbuck ink over a large slice of the sky.

This was another piece of dramatic shorthand, alerting us to the fact that it was safe to go and make a cup of coffee because the next few minutes would be taken up with the ship being tossed around like a Proh stick going down the Colorado rapids.

Chisholm and his crew were supposed to be 2,000 miles from any land. But as dawn broke it turned out that they were 500 yards from an island, now deserted but for a spooky, Kurtz-like figure with a large hoard of pearls and a wardrobe of dapper cream linen suits: a sort of Kurtz-Lite.

A few more things happened after that: various people got killed, and it all had something to do with Chisholm's search for redemption, but it was hard to care who had survived and who hadn't. Coltrane is a big man who needs a meaty meal to sink his teeth into: *The Ebb Tide* was a snack.

It was the capstone to a long evening of improbable television. In *Animal People* (BBC1) we saw penguins in the suburbs of Wellington, New Zealand, which have become so used to life that they now waddle out of the sea and into the local discounter when they fancy wagging their bottoms to actual music. Nobody stops them. The narrator of *There's A Penguin In The House* was Peter Sallis, whose distinctive voice we previously heard on Nick Park's animated penguin escapade, *The Wrong Trousers*. Presumably, an in-joke. But still not as funny a joke as those madcap Lib Dems.

**6.00am Business Breakfast** (50944)  
**7.00am BBC Breakfast News** (1) (88738385)  
**9.05am Can't Cook, Won't Cook** (2621632)  
**9.30am Style Challenge** (1486632)  
**9.55am Kilroy** (1) (5418293)  
**10.30am Change That** (1508019)

**11.00am News** (1) and weather (4870187)  
**11.05am The Really Useful Show** (281106)  
**11.30am Room for Improvement** (2841108)  
**12.00am News** (1) and weather (4830309)  
**12.05pm Call My Bluff** (9548800)  
**12.30am Going for a Song** (9624361)  
**1.00am News** (1) and weather (16309)  
**1.30am Regional News** (1) (17428187)  
**1.40am The Weather Show** (87203800)  
**1.45am Neighbours** (1) (77154300)  
**2.10am Quirney** (1) (8299829)  
**3.00am Through the Keyhole** (782748)  
**3.25am The Really Useful Show Update** (4847458)

**3.30am Funniestones** (7270800) **3.35am Playdays** (8196108) **3.55am The Silver Brumby** (8196108) **4.00am My Nanny** (2803187) **4.35am Cartoon Critters** (865054) **5.00am Newsround** (1) (9627800) **5.10am Byker Grove** (1) (5994646)  
**5.35am Neighbours** (1) (1) (158038)  
**6.00am News** (1) and weather (545)  
**6.30am Regional News** (125)  
**7.00am Watchdog with Anne Robinson** Why a non-stop car alarm is driving neighbours round the bend, and the manufacturers who overcharge for car parts (1) (8729)  
**7.30am EastEnders** A bit of detective work puts Pauline on to an important find. Mary's cover could be blown if Sean's discovery becomes widely known. Ruth and Concor leave the families problems behind when they take Lucy fishing (1) (309)

**8.00am Animal Hospital** New series presented by Rolf Harris (1) (7477)  
**8.30am Dad** New comedy series with George Cole and Kevin McNally. Alan Hook worries what to buy his son for his 18th birthday (1) (9212)  
**9.00am News** (1) and weather (5854)  
**9.30am The Locksmith** New six-part drama with Warren Clarke and Chris Gascara. An ordinary man becomes a vigilante when he is accused of viciously attacking his estranged wife (1) (304558)  
**10.20am QED: Challenging Children** Profile of gifted four-year-old Chantelle Coleman (1) (713309)  
**11.00am Question Time** David Dimbleby presides as a London studio audience questions the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, Anne Widdowson, MP, Liberal Democrat, agriculture spokesman Charles Kennedy, and Rosie Boycott, Editor of the Independent On Sunday (1) (126854)  
**12.05am Face of a Stranger** (1991) with Gena Rowlands and Tyne Daly. A rich socialite is left suddenly penniless when her husband dies. She befriends a "bag lady" across the street and the two discover comfort from their shared lives. Directed by Claudia Weill (54065)  
**1.40am Weather** (2692201)

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**10.20am QED: Challenging Children** Profile of gifted four-year-old Chantelle Coleman (1) (713309)  
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**For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see Vision, published on Saturday**  
**SKY 1**  
**6.00am Morning Show** (200032) **8.00am Pagine Gialle** (1997) **9.00am The Big Breakfast** (99632) **10.00am Another World** (30003) **11.00am Days of Our Lives** (20077) **12.00am Oprah Winfrey** (28129) **1.00am The Bill** (1997) **2.00am The Bill** (1997) **3.00am The Bill** (1997) **4.00am The Bill** (1997) **5.00am The Bill** (1997) **6.00am The Bill** (1997) **7.00am The Bill** (1997) **8.00am The Bill** (1997) **9.00am The Bill** (1997) **10.00am The Bill** (1997) **11.00am The Bill** (1997) **12.00am The Bill** (1997) **1.00am The Bill** (1997) **2.00am The Bill** (1997) **3.00am The Bill** (1997) **4.00am The Bill** (1997) **5.00am The Bill** (1997) **6.00am The Bill** (1997) **7.00am The Bill** (1997) **8.00am The Bill** (1997) **9.00am The Bill** (1997) **10.00am The Bill** (1997) **11.00am The Bill** (1997) **12.00am The Bill** (1997) **1.00am The Bill** (1997) **2.00am The Bill** (1997) **3.00am The Bill** (1997) **4.00am The Bill** (1997) **5.00am The Bill** (1997) 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**TENNIS 42**  
Sad Becker  
reaches end  
of the road

# SPORT

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 25 1997

**CANOEING 42**

Manchester boy  
paddling towards  
world slalom title



Al Fayed offers part-time position

## Keegan given chance to lead Fulham revival

By Matt Dickinson

MOHAMED AL FAYED has served notice that money is no object in his ambitious attempt to turn Fulham from a corner shop into the Harrods of English football by attempting to lure Kevin Keegan behind the counter. The Nationwide League second division club is hoping to make an announcement today that the former Newcastle United manager, who has been out of the game since January, would join it on a part-time basis.

Nor are the changes likely to stop there. Micky Adams, the manager, was a surprise absentee as Fulham played Wolverhampton Wanderers in a Coca-Cola Cup second-round, second-leg tie at Molineux last night, where his assistant, Alan Cork, took charge of the first team. Adams' absence fuelled speculation that Ray Wilkins, presently coaching at Crystal Palace, had already been lined up as a replacement to work under Keegan.

Adams is understood to have declined to travel to Wolves after seeking clarification about his future. He led the team to promotion last season but now seems certain

to be replaced by Wilkins, whose last spell in charge of a team was with Queens Park Rangers a year ago.

Eight months ago, Keegan walked out of St James' Park, turning his back on the job he claimed was the best in football, and most observers believed that he had walked out of the game for good. He recently contacted Al Fayed to seek backing for a Midlands-based theme park based around football, and it was then that the Egyptian tycoon brought up the idea of the former England striker becoming involved with Fulham. Keegan was a guest in Al Fayed's executive box at Craven Cottage last week for the first leg of the Wolves match.

Luring Keegan would be a genuine coup for Al Fayed, who has been typically forthright about his intentions of leading the second division side into the FA Carling Premiership, and is evidently willing to back his claims with millions of pounds in funding. Keegan would act as a magnet to attract leading players, enabling Fulham to compete strongly in the transfer market even from the relative depths of the Nationwide League.

Al Fayed has already pledged to spend £20 million refurbishing Craven Cottage and promotion to the first division this season would oblige him to turn the ground, which holds fewer than 15,000 supporters, into an all-seater stadium.

Redevelopment plans are restricted, however, because of the listed status on the Stevenage Road Stand facade and the cottage itself. Architects have already examined ambitious ways to redevelop the site, including the possibility of a huge car park under the pitch to cope with the swelling crowds.

Having invested £300 million in Harrods and £100 million in renovating the Ritz Hotel, Al Fayed is not likely to balk at the rebuilding costs of Fulham, for whom he has developed a real affection since taking over this summer. His plans for the club include developing a large community centre.

The Egyptian has sought advice on his ambitious project from Professor Sir Rowland Smith, the chairman of Manchester United's plc, but he has some distance to go before achieving his aim of turning Fulham into the Manchester United of the South.

They presently lie eleventh in the second division, with 11 points from their opening eight games. Al Fayed is hoping to use Keegan's experience at Newcastle where, with £16 million of backing, he lifted the club from the bottom of the old second division to the top of the Premiership in five years. Since leaving Newcastle on January 8, Keegan has been pursuing business interests including his horse racing venture and he has bought extra land on the estate owned by Sir John Hall, who is soon to step down as Newcastle chairman. He has spent a lot of time working on an autobiography, which is due out next month, but Fulham are hopeful that he could soon be adding another chapter.



Nick Faldo greets Martin while, from left, Olazabal, Costantino Rocca and Darren Clarke try to hide their discomfort

## Martin fails to take the strain

FROM JOHN HOPKINS  
GOLF CORRESPONDENT  
IN VALDEERRAMA

FINALLY, it came down to a brief handshake, a gallery of downward glances and the uncomfortable shuffling of feet. Miguel Angel Martin's Ryder Cup career began and ended yesterday with a stage-managed show of solidarity that did little to soothe the troubled waters of Valderrama.

Sporting the Europe team's latest outfit, Martin attempted to mingle with his colleagues as they lined up for official photographs, but the awkwardness engendered by the affair quickly manifested itself in a series of strained smiles and a sudden aversion to eye contact.

For Martin, who was denied his rightful place on the team

after refusing to prove his fitness after a wrist injury, the reservoir of goodwill soon ran dry. He would not, he said, be staying to watch the match. "I shall go home to Madrid and watch the match on television," he said. "I do not feel like being at the Ryder Cup."

It was just one more contradiction. Earlier, the Ryder Cup committee — the body responsible for Martin's exclusion — issued a statement saying: "Miguel Angel Martin has been invited to attend the match and related events in his capacity of non-playing member and he has welcomed the chance to play this role with the team."

At one stage Martin had even stood side-by-side with Ken Schofield, the executive director of the PGA European Tour and a member of the Ryder Cup committee. It was



Practice makes perfect .... 44  
Lynne Truss ..... 44  
Calculating captains ..... 44

hardly a match made in heaven though, and Martin later admitted that the whole episode could have been handled with more dignity. "Ken Severiano [Ballesteros, the Europe team captain] and I should have got around a

table and got it resolved," he said. "That would have been better."

The Spaniard has considerable support from rank-and-file players, who feel that the committee acted with unseemly haste in allocating his place to Jose Maria Olazabal, who finished eleventh, one place behind him, in the Ryder Cup points table.

At a meeting of the players' Tournament Committee at the Forest of Arden last week, they criticised the decision to drop Martin from the team and said it was up to the players concerned to decide his fitness.

Yesterday, though, it was apparent that whatever the 12 players who will defend Europe's honour this week think about the rights and wrongs of the case, their sense of purpose leaves little room for distraction.

## Celtic are denied fee for Collins transfer

By Our Sports Staff

CELTIC were left dismayed last night after learning that they will not receive a fee for their former midfielder, John Collins. The Scottish Football Association (SFA) world governing body, had been expected to reveal a decision later this week but last night informed Celtic that their appeal has been unsuccessful.

Collins left Celtic Park for AS Monaco last year under the Bosman ruling, but Celtic disputed the free transfer. Fergus McCann, the Scottish club's managing director, appealed to the SFA, arguing that Monaco is a principality, not part of the European Union.

The club wanted the SFA's backing in their attempt to secure around £2 million for Collins. After the ruling, Celtic plan to discuss with legal experts whether they have grounds for further appeal.

An important aspect of the SFA decision is that the Scottish Football Association (SFA) appear to have delayed passing on the club's appeal. In a statement, the club said: "We are surprised and disappointed the appeal to the SFA in this case has been rejected. The rejection is based on the apparent late arrival of the appeal fee from the SFA. We are investigating this key aspect of the matter."

"We are surprised on two counts: 1) Why were Celtic not advised of any problem regarding the SFA's late paying last December 2 despite continuous dialogue since then and two meetings in Switzerland? 2) Why has the SFA commented on the merits of our case when it also states it is unable to examine Celtic's argument in detail, which should be fundamental to any statement by them? We are considering our position with our advisers."

The club added there would be no further statement until these matters can be discussed with the parties involved. Meanwhile, Collins's agent, Ray Sparks, moved quickly to defuse reports that the player may now be surplus to requirements at the French club coached by Jean Tigana.

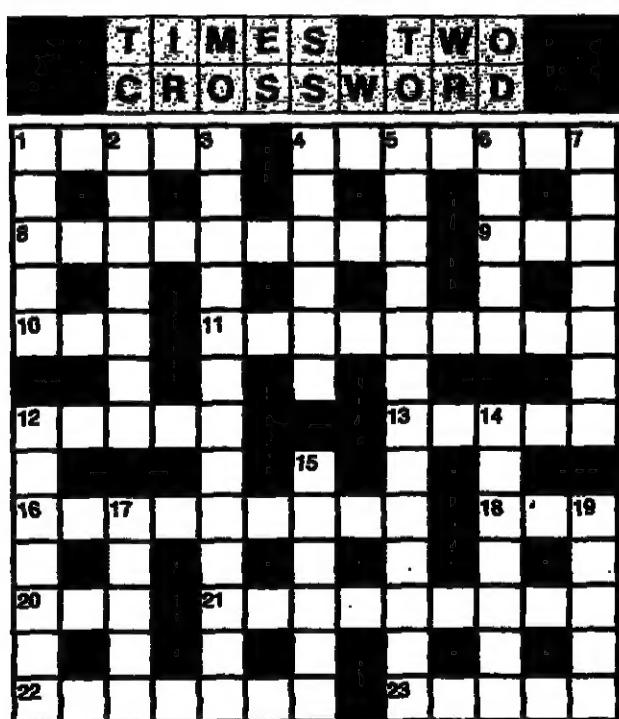
Sparks said: "John is now back in the Monaco side after injury and this has happily coincided with the reviving fortunes of the team."



Wilkins: speculation



Keegan: guest



No 1208

### ACROSS

- 1 (High) social standing (5)
- 4 Maize eaten at cinema (7)
- 8 Humiliated (flesh) tamed (9)
- 9 Go on at a horse (3)
- 10 Bath: boat (5)
- 11 Awareness: learning (9)
- 12 Allow to enter (3,2)
- 13 Piece of paper: ship's rope (5)
- 16 P.G. — Jeeves author (9)
- 18 Pass between peaks (3)
- 20 Fish, proverb: slippery (3)
- 21 Have a good time (4,5)
- 22 Calumny (7)
- 23 MIL position-detecting equipment (5)

### DOWN

- 1 Solar System visitor (5)
- 2 Tumbler (7)
- 3 Unadventurous person (5-2-3-3)
- 4 Christie's Belgian detective (6)
- 5 Mississippi boat (6,7)
- 6 Possessed (5)
- 7 Insufficiently attend to (7)
- 12 The bar: "Let's kill all the—" (Dick-Hen. VI/2) (7)
- 14 Called for repeat (7)
- 15 Sand trap: underground shelter (6)
- 17 Greek D (5)
- 19 Stratum: a ben (5)

### SOLUTION TO NO 1207

ACROSS: 2 Galleon 6 Haggis 8 Romans 9 Friends 10 Solve 12 Countrymen 16 Cheltenham 18 Array 20 Brioche 21 Height 22 Alfred 23 Scornful  
DOWN: 1 Patriot 2 Gendarme 3 Arouse 4 Trail 5 Casket 7 Guernica 11 On and off 13 Material 14 Cashier 15 Bathos 17 Hyphen 19 Rhino

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